

and had already proved himself against senior runners both over the county and on the track.

One remembers in the early summer, the S.L.H. club's 6-mile track championship on the Tooting track. The youthful Pirie followed on the heels of Tom Richards, over 20 years his senior; the long strides of the tall and slim Pirie contrasted with the marathon style of Richards. Richards went away on the last mile while Pirie finished 2nd.

Gordon Pirie was called up in June and went into the R.A.F. He appeared to have the Surrey Junior mile well in hand but fell on the last bend and finished 3rd in 4:37. In spite of injuring a blood vessel in the leg as a result, 4 weeks later he won his heat in the Southern Junior mile in 4:38 and finished 4th in the final in 4:34.6. Similarly he won his heat in the A.A.A. Junior mile in 4:34.6 but suffered again from having to run the final not long after and was 5th in 4:38. His outstanding ability had now attracted attention and later in the summer, at only 18 years of age, we find him R.A.F. reserve for the Inter-Services.

The cross-country season before this winter, saw young Pirie making hay in senior races. His wins included Lloyds' Bank and Inter-Banks and matches at Cranwell, beating the senior R.A.F. champion. The Wednesday before the Southern he was first in the R.A.F. area eliminator race, beating Harrison. He won the Southern Junior at Eastbourne on the Saturday, from his brother Peter and the following Saturday won the R.A.F. senior cross-country championship.

There is no doubt he was suffering from the effects of this exacting programme at Aylesbury a week later, when he was well behind Peter in the National Junior and finished 16th. Nevertheless he soon regained form to get 4th place in the Inter-Services, the first R.A.F. man to finish.

During the past year, however, we find more planning in his racing programme, going from strength to strength with improving performances and not too many of them. Before the 1950 track season we find him putting up second fastest time in the 4th stage of the London-Brighton relay. His first track performance to attract attention was a 4:23 mile in the L.A.C.

relays. His triumphs included a new mile record of 4:32 in the R.A.F. Transport Command meeting. Then he won the R.A.F. mile in 4:20, beating Ellis of T.V.H. and Robinson, Public School record holder. Pirie ran disappointingly in the A.A.A. mile, clocking 4:27 and failed to reach the final. No doubt he was a little overawed by the occasion, his first senior A.A.A. championship. However, leading until the last lap in the Inter-Services mile, he recorded 4:19.5 to finish 3rd to Chattaway and Morris. Further, in the match between the R.A.F., Middlesex and Civil Service, he was again 3rd in the mile to Len Eyre (4:12.2) and Parker. Pirie's time was 4:19.8, accomplished at 19 years of age. A win in the Inter-Banks mile (4:26.8) and a lap in the Surrey road relay equivalent to 14:30 for 3 miles, were added as comparative minor achievements. And now to the current cross-country season in which he has established himself not only as one of our most outstanding Junior runners but as serious threat to our senior talent.

Gordon won the Gibb Cup, the club 5-mile senior cross-country, in October, from Peter. Stone, the senior southern champion, was 1 min. 26 secs. behind on this occasion. November finds Gordon Pirie winning the Blackheath "mob match" with 104 starters, from Peter, by over 2 mins. He beat his brother Peter by 1 min. in the Inter-Banks in December. All these races were held over exacting courses from Coulsdon. He won the Surrey Junior championship in Richmond Park, on January 13th, beating the course record by 57 secs. The course was a full 5 miles and included two steep hills. Oxford and Cambridge runners races over this course. Pirie's time was 27:12.



Man of Ambition - Gordon Pirie

COMPILED BY.

ARTHUR ASHDOWN.

41, HIGHFIELD ROAD,

SUDBURY,

SUFFOLK.

C.O 10

605.

Best Wishes from  
Gordon Pirie  
South London Harriers.





Ah! Soap, water and Pirie form a happy picture after training



Dad, once a runner himself, has a chat about his son's experiences. Mother looks on



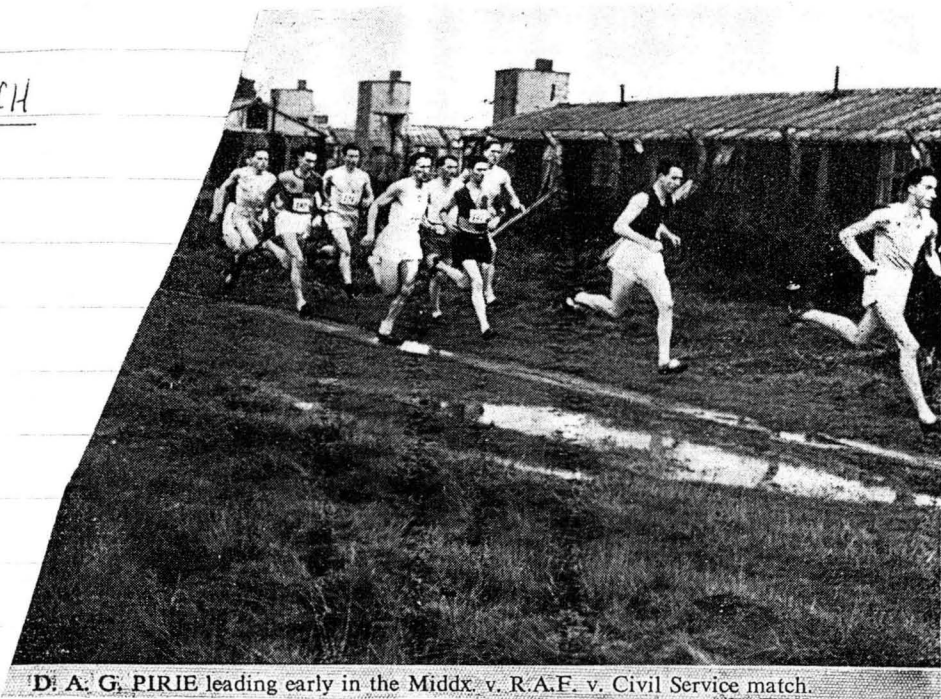
This is the life—a doze after training!



Right—Pirie ex-



## Inter Team Match at Uxbridge 1951



D. A. G. PIRIE leading early in the Middx. v. R.A.F. v. Civil Service match.

## Southern Counties Junior Cross-Country Championship at Southgate 1951



## CADET PIRIE STILL KEEPS HIS RECORD

By GUY BUTLER

**Q**UITE a few of the youngsters in the Air Training Corps championships, at Uxbridge, obviously knew quite a lot about athletics.

I was, for example, impressed by a workmanlike junior miler, K. Morris, who won in 4mins. 45.2secs. — good running for a 15-year-old on a day when there was some wind about.

He was disappointed not to better the record made by "Cadet D. Pirie" in 1947. Pirie we now know as Gordon. At that time he did 4mins. 42secs.

## Inter Counties Cross-Country Championship

Aylesford 1951.



**M**ASTERLY running by Dr. Frank Aaron, who finished first in the Inter-County Cross-Country Championship at New Hythe, Kent, gives hope that he will gain the international title last won for England by Jack Holden in 1939. He completed the 7½ miles on Saturday in 39min 34sec, fully 200yds ahead of the field.

He was winning this event for the second year in succession and although another Yorkshireman, L. Eyre, finished third they could not prevent Lancashire, even without W. Hesketh (influenza), securing the county championship for the third year off the reel. Lancashire placed all their scoring six in the first 18 to finish and thus retained THE DAILY TELEGRAPH Cup.

A drying wind during the morning, and a spell of sunshine made conditions better than had been expected. Most of the 27 counties, a record for the event, were at full strength, and of the leading runners only Hesketh, D. W. M. Haw (Yorkshire) and R. G. Gosney (Hampshire) were absentees.

When the 240 runners were sent off the young Surrey Junior champion, D. A. Pirie, rushed to the front, followed by Pearsall, of Worcester, and Walker, the Surrey Senior champion, and this trio were in the lead half-way round the first lap.

Then runners from Lancashire and Yorkshire started to move up, and at two miles Aaron, the English champion, caught Pirie, and Eyre, the Empire three miles champion, had gone into third place, with Saunders (Lancashire) close on his heels. Just behind them were other Lancashire and Yorkshire runners, and at the end of the first lap it was clear that the race would prove another Northern triumph.

Aaron, despite lack of racing in recent weeks, was in excellent form, and on the flat, over the hilly country and through the ploughland his progress was always smooth and confident. Leading by 100 yards at the end of the second lap, when more than five miles had been covered, he doubled this advantage during the final circuit.

### YOUNG PIRIE'S FEAT

Impressive as was Aaron's running, no praise can be too high for Pirie, who at the age of 20 and in virtually his first big senior test beat all but Aaron in a truly run race. His time of 39min 59sec, was 12sec faster than that of Eyre, who just managed to beat Saunders for third place.

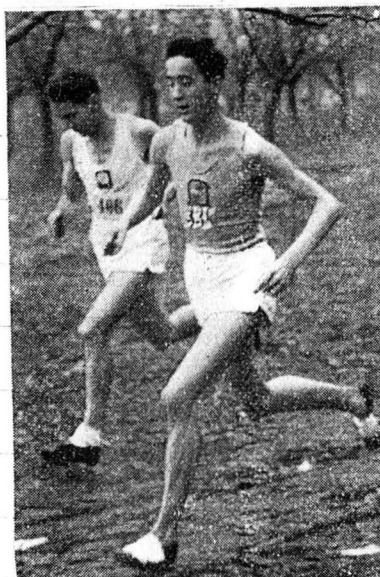
Lancashire again displayed great team tactics and their young side appear likely to keep the title for several years, for all are capable of further improvement.

Yorkshire put up a great fight and with Aaron and Eyre running in the first three places they looked at one stage as if they might give their old rivals a close struggle. As it was they were a good second with 93 points, Kent doing well to beat Middlesex for third place.

Surrey improved a little on last year by getting fifth, but Warwickshire were not as prominent as 12 months ago and went from second to sixth position.

After the race more than 350 competitors, officials and county representatives were entertained by the directors of Aylesford Paper Mills, over whose ground the race was held, Mr. G. Simon, General Manager of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH presenting the trophy and medals to the successful competitors. Result:

**INDIVIDUAL:** F. Aaron (Yorks) 39m 34s. 1: D. A. Pirie (Surrey) 39-59; 2: L. Eyre (Yorks) 40-11; 3: G. B. Saunders (Lancs) 40-14; 4: F. Sanders (Kent) 40-20; 5: C. M. Gray (Warwick) 40-51; 6: C. W. Walker (Surrey) 40-54; 7: G. A. Coombes (Wilts) 40-57; 8: W. R. Beckett (Kent) 40-58; 9: F. Norris (Lancs) 40-40; 10: A. Chorlton (Yorks) 40-42; 11: G. Beak (Northumberland) 40-55; 12:



FRANK AARON, English champion for the 3rd successive year, is a courageous runner and bound to be well forward; he is seen here with the rising British star GORDON PIRIE (South London Harriers). Gordon's father, Alex. Pirie is a former Scottish Internationalist.





D. A. G. PIRIE leading early in the National Junior C.C. Race

## "FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN" International Cross-Country Match

SHEFFIELD, APRIL 14th.

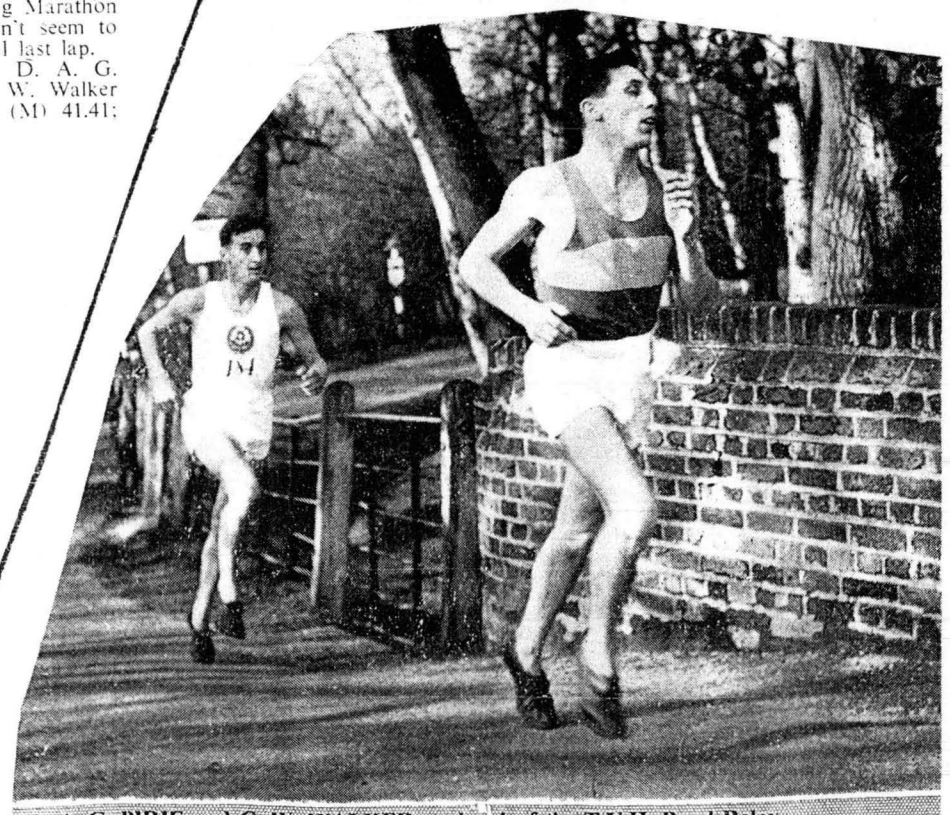
WEATHER was cold and sunny at the hilly Graves Park venue, and the turf in surprisingly good condition. The big event of the day was preceded by a representative match between Combined Services, University Athletic Union, and the Northern, Eastern, Midlands and Southern C.C. Associations. Led by the band of the Hallamshire Regiment, in full ceremonial dress, the teams marched past a saluting base and then several hundred pigeons were released in Olympic fashion.

On the downhill start, Harry Hicks forged ahead with Gordon Pirie on his heels and, at the half mile mark, the order was: Hicks, Pirie and Doug. Thompson. With Hicks fading, Pirie moved into the lead so that at 1½ miles, with the field starting to string out, he was 20 yards clear of Thompson then Sando, Charlesworth, Norris, Hatton, Gray, Hicks, Jackson and Hollywood. Next time round (3½ miles), Pirie was 50 yards ahead, followed by Hatton, Sando, Walker, Thompson, Norris, Gray, Charlesworth, Hollywood, Jackson, Binder, Stone and Nichols. The team count at this point, showed the South leading the North by 64 points to 66. With Pirie increasing his lead, the 5½ mile mark came up with the order: Pirie, Walker, Hatton, Sando, Norris, Hollywood, Gray, Charlesworth, Thompson and Stone; and mainly due to determined running by Hollywood, the North totalled 61 against the South's 69. On the last lap, run amid a flurry of snow, Belgrave's Chas, Walker, slightly closed the gap with Pirie, who, nevertheless, ran out a comfortable winner by 50 yards, with another two juniors, Ray Hatton and Frank Sando, coming in in fine style. Excitement mounted as it was seen that the Southern runners were putting in all they knew on this last lap and, with Flt. Lt. Stone gaining five places, they closed in to a two points victory over the Northern lads. Stone, incidentally, is training specifically for Marathon under the pre-war ever-smiling Marathon star, Sam Ferris; but it didn't seem to affect his speed over that vital last lap.

Individual placings: 1st, D. A. G. Pirie (C.S.), 41.28; 2nd, C. W. Walker (S.), 41.37; 3rd, R. Hatton (M) 41.41;

4th, F. Sando (C.S.), 41.58; 5th, J. W. Stone (S.), 42.08; 6th, F. Norris (N.), 42.10; 7th, J. Charlesworth (S.); 8th, D. J. Thompson (S.); 9th, P. Hollywood (N); 10th, C. M. Gray (M.); 11th, M. Jackson (N); 12th, J. Wild (N); 13th, J. E. Nichols (N); 14th, D. Walker (N); 15th, A. Binder (M); 16th, S. R. Dean (M); 17th, T. Dalton (M); 18th, E. P. Manley (S); 19th, W. McMinnis (C.S.); 20th, T. Bird (U.A.U.). Teams: 1st, South (2, 5, 7, 8, 18, 23), 63; 2nd, North (6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14), 65; 3rd, Midlands (3, 10, 15, 16, 17, 21), 82; 4th Combined Services (1, 4, 19, 22, 26, 28), 100.

THAMES VALLEY HARRIERS  
ROAD RELAY at CRANFORD 1951



D. A. G. PIRIE and C. W. WALKER on lap 1 of the T.V.H. Road Relay

1951

### INTERNATIONAL MILITARY C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP

Freiburg, Germany, April 22nd.  
Distance 5 Miles 100 Yds.

Well organised by the French Army, the French team, including as it did three internationals, were confident of success, but the British team repeated the recent International success with another fine victory. Grandly led by Gordon Pirie, with Frank Sando never far behind, the British team were behind 22-28 after the first lap but pulled up on the second lap to win by two points.

1 LAC Pirie, D.A.G. (Britain) 27.55  
2 Pte. Herman F. (Belgium) ... 28.05  
3 Pte. Sando (Britain) ... 28.15  
4 Pte. Mahjoub N. (France) ... 28.26  
5 Lt. Gailly E. (Belgium) ... 28.28  
6 Sgt. Lahoucine B. (France) ... 28.38  
7, Cpl. Kadhouri K. (France) 28.40; 8, Pte. Ben Said A. (France) 28.41; 9, F/Lt. Stone J. W. (Britain) 28.43; 10, Lt. Birch D. C. (Britain) 28.50; 11, Pte. Dillien E. (Belgium); 12 Sgt. Bromley J. (Britain); Sgt. McMinnis W. (Britain) was 17th.

Teams:	Pts.
1 Britain (1.3.9.10) .....	23
2 France (4.6.7.8) .....	25



Cross-country runner who trains in heavy hob-nailed army boots is, 21 tomorrow, D. A. G. Pirie, of Coulsdon.







H. HARTING (Netherlands) leading from D. A. G. PIRIE, J. H. WOOD, C. J. CHATAWAY, C. W. BRASHER, D. JANSSENS (Belgium) and W. E. LUCAS in the 2 Miles International race at the British Games.

# BRITISH GAMES 2 MILE RACE WHITE CITY 1951

## SOUTHERN COUNTRIES 1 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP AT READING 1951

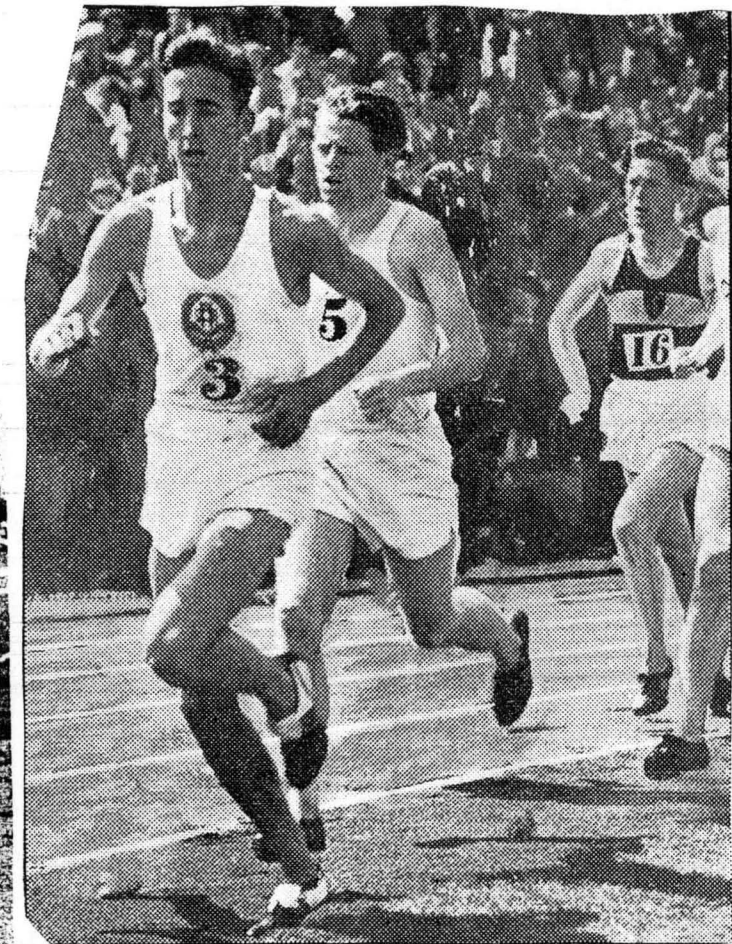


1st D. SEAMAN.  
2nd G. PIRIE.



Does this June event forecast a far greater victory in July? Roger Bannister gets home an easy first in the Kinnaird Trophy mile at Chiswick Stadium.

## AT CHISWICK 1951



As so often happens, the most looked-forward-to event on the programme, the mile, was a disappointment. With Roger Bannister opposed to Chris Chataway, Gordon Pirie and others of note, the 4.15.2 record of the late Jack Lovelock was expected to be beaten, but no one seemed particularly keen to set a fast pace with the result that the three-quarter mark was reached in 3.19.6.

Thereupon Chataway shot off, hotly pursued by Bannister and Pirie. Bannister's long stride eventually devoured the intervening space and he passed his man with 80 yards to go, winning in 4.16.2, his last quarter having been completed in something like 56.3 sec!

### PIRIE'S BEST

Pirie also got by Chataway beating him by 4-10thsec in 4.16.8, his fastest time to date.



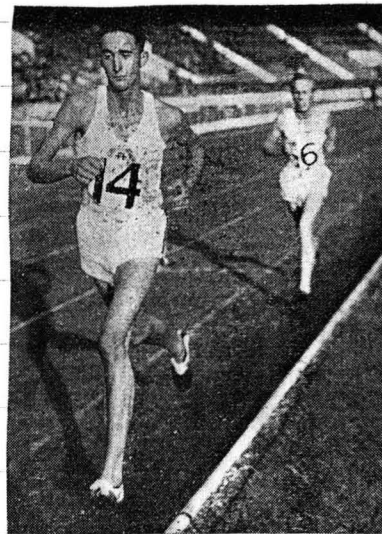


# H. H. A. CHAMPIONSHIPS 1951



D. A. G. PIRIE, British six miles champion at the age of 20, and a great Olympic prospect.

## 6 MILES



**SIX MILES.**—D. A. G. Pirie, S. London H., 29min 32sec (British, National and English Native record, championship best), 1; W. Hesketh, Manchester A. and C.C., 29min 50.2; C. M. Gray, Small Heath H., 30min 12.4; 3, C. Birch, Leeds Harehills A.C., 30min 19.3; 4, J. C. Smart, Belgrave H., 30min 23.6; 5, R. F. Robins, Essex Beagles, 30min 25.2; 6, Dr. E. Aaron, Leeds St Mark's H. (holder), 7.

**THREE MILES.**—W. R. Beckett (Hythe A.C.), 14min 2.6sec, 1; C. J. Chataway (Walton A.C.), 14/2.6, 2; H. J. Hicks (Hampstead H.), 14/10, 3; D. A. G. Pirie (S. London H.), 14/12.4, 4; H. A. Olney (Thames Valley H.), 14/14.9, 5; A. S. Forbes (Victoria Park A.A.C., Glasgow), 14/15, 6.

## 3 MILES



A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The big thrill of the meeting came in the three miles when at the bell, and after lap after lap of exceedingly fast running, there were seven men with a chance of victory—Chataway, Beckett, Olney, Hicks, Pirie (who had won the six miles the previous day), Forbes and Herbert.

The chances of five of them died soon after the commencement of the last lap, however, for Chataway shot off with Beckett hard on his heels.

### TWO-HORSE RACE

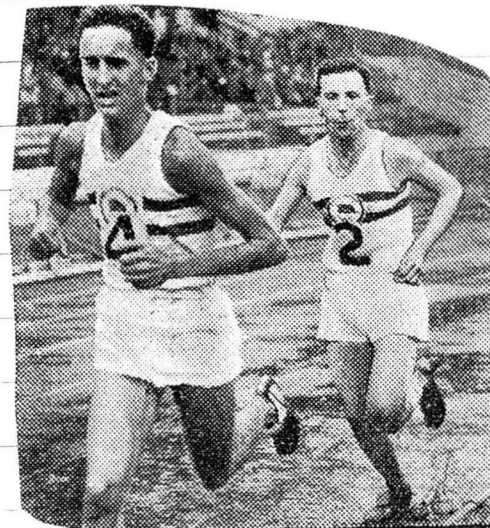
Up the back straight they tore, the distance between them and the rest of the field widening into unbelievable dimensions.

At the top end of the track Beckett drew level and then they raced down the home straight in one of the greatest track duels I have ever seen.

With 25 yards to go Beckett got his body in front, but Chataway would not be denied and he all but fought level again, losing the verdict by so small a margin that their time of 14min 2.6sec could not be separated. The individual mile times were: 4-36.8, 4-30.2 and 4-35.6.

# GREAT BRITAIN v FRANCE.

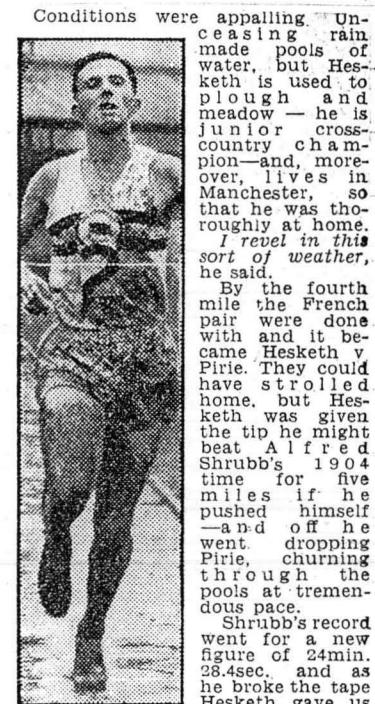
# WHITE CITY 1951



Gordon Pirie (with Walter Hesketh).



D. A. G. Pirie (G.B.).



Hesketh splashes through.

France's champion, Mimoun, had decided, after all, not to run. A pity. This Manchester boy would have cracked him, I think.

Rain was pouring down throughout and, lashed by a blustering wind, the first of the three miles was covered in 4min 40sec.

At this stage, Philip Morgan, the Oxford Blue, held a commanding lead, but not for long. A.A.A. champion Roy Beckett quickly took the initiative and led at two miles, covered in 9min 25sec. Obviously it was going to be a fast race.

Another lap and Beckett, Slykhuis, Gordon Pirie and Alan Parker, the four leaders, had lost the rest of the field.

Disappointment here was the sight of Beckett dropping out with knee trouble, which developed during training.

With three laps to go, the 20-year-old Pirie, quite unaffected by his six-mile race for Britain last Monday, sprinted in the hope of opening up a gap, but although he succeeded in leaving Parker, "slippery Slyky" was not to be fooled and followed close on Pirie's heels.

With the pace settling down to normal again, Parker caught his two rivals and took the lead.

Running with great power, the 23-year-old Lancastrian really began stepping it out, but Pirie was not having any. Up he went again, still followed by his shadow, Slykhuis, and at the bell it was Pirie piling on the pace. Then it happened.

With 350 yards to go the 28-year-old Dutchman dashed into the lead from exactly the same spot as he did against Sydney Wooderson in 1946, but this time there was no Sydney to challenge.

### PIRIE'S FASTEST TIME

He was too strong for Pirie. Going away with every stride, and running with perfect rhythm and co-ordination, he scored a 20-yard victory with Pirie returning his fastest-ever time of 14min 3sec and Alan Parker third in 14min 4.4sec—a wonderful effort by these two young Olympic prospects.

## FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN GAMES WHITE CITY 1951



A. B. PARKER (14), P. R. L. MORGAN (13), D. A. G. PIRIE (behind Morgan), W. E. LUCAS (12), W. R. BECKETT (beside Lucas) leading early in the three miles at the Festival British Games at White City. W. SLIKHUIS, the eventual winner, is No. 7.

**Three Miles.**—W. Slykhuis (Netherlands) 1, D. A. G. Pirie (S. London H.) 2, A. B. Parker (Christie) 3, F. Green (Birchfield H.) 4, H. J. Hicks (Hampstead H.) 5, P. R. Morgan (S. London H.) 6, 14min 0.8sec.



# Great Britain v Yugoslavia Belgrade 1951



Nor did the tension ease in the 10,000 metres. The British runners in white and the Yugoslavs in red changed positions continually as the race developed. One Yugoslav dropped back, but Mihalic showed the tremendous fighting spirit which had been characteristic of the Yugoslavs' racing all the afternoon. However, Pirie's relentlessly even lap timing throughout the race gave him a reserve of energy when the bell rang. In the last lap he ran away from Mihalic to win decisively by 20 yards in a time of 31min. 11.2sec, which is rather slower than his running in the A.A.A. championships, but he did not seem tired.

Μία φωτογραφία από την κούρσα των 10.000 μ. των 'Αγγλοϊουγκοσλαβικών αγώνων εις τὸ Βελιγράδι. Προηγούνται οἱ Σέρβοι Μιχαλιτς καὶ Στεφάνοβιτς καὶ οἱ 'Αγγλοι Χέσκεθ (1ος νικητὴς) καὶ Πάιρυ. Χθὲς οἱ 'Αγγλοι ἐκέρδισαν τὴν ἰνν βραβίον καὶ εἰς τὴν Κωνσταντινούπολιν.

# Great Britain v Greece Athens 1951



Ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ θαυμασίου ἀθλοῦ τοῦ Ἡρώ-ἰκου Μαυραπόστολου: Εἶναι οἱ πρῶτοι γύροι τῆς κούρσας τῶν 5.000 μ. ὅπου ὁ θαυμασὸς πρωταθλητὴς μας ὄχι μόνον σὲ ταχυνέθηκε ἀπὸ κοντὰ τὸν 'Αγγλον Πάιρυ ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐπλησίωσε τὸ ρεκόρ τοῦ ἐπιτυχόν τὸν θαυμασίον χρόνῳ 15.09.1. Διακρίνονται κατὰ σειράν ἐξ ὀριστερῶν: Πάιρυ (23), Μπέκετ (12), Μαυραπόστολος (52) καὶ Μελιδώνης.

# Great Britain v Turkey Istanbul 1951

Pirie, completely recovered from his race of yesterday, won the 10,000 metre event by 300 metres. After a slow first mile he led all the way, finishing in a time of 32min. 29sec. (just under 32min. for six miles).

Yet again the British distance runners proved more than a match for their opposition. In the 5,000 metres race the lead changed several times in the slowly run first mile, which was completed in about 4min. 50sec. Then Pirie wisely took the lead and Chataway cheerfully slipped into his favourite second position. Coshgul, who ran a 14min. 13sec. three miles in Britain last year and has a finish to be respected, was clearly below form, and by quickening the pace Pirie enabled the leaders to drop him at about 4,000 metres. Then Onel, the Turkish 1,500-metre record holder, seemed a potential danger, but Chataway started his finish first in the back straight. Onel was carried past Pirie, too, but as Chataway lost him in a devastating sprint finish Onel was passed by Pirie. Chataway's time was 14min. 56.5sec, the approximate equivalent of a 14min. 25sec. three miles, but his last lap was completed in 60sec.

HOW does Pirie do it? And what will he do in the future? He has upset all accepted athletic ideas. We must now revise standards carefully built up over a hundred years. We just cannot estimate what Pirie will do—until he does it. He is an athletic revelation.

It comes from a combination of heredity, sheer hard work (along new lines widely criticised as dangerous and hopeless), and a fortunate chance that led him to start the ideal training for distance running, quite unwittingly, at the age of eight.

Heredity plays a big part in sport. So, though Pirie was not born until 1931, his story begins before that. Before 1926, even: for, by then, his father, Alick Pirie, was a Scottish cross-country international. Coming South, Alick joined one of Britain's oldest clubs, South London Harriers — the famous 'Irrepressibles' — and he was a member of the great S.L.H. teams that carried so much before them in the nineteen-twenties. Moving up to Marathon running, Alick Pirie was still racing until quite recently; and he carried

the 1948 Olympic torch on part of its journey to Wembley.

As he carried it, he was escorted by a seventeen-year-old youngster; Douglas Alastair Gordon Pirie, Alick's third son.

Despite his Scots name, the vest that Gordon Pirie wore when he succeeded his father in the International Cross-Country Championship bore, not a thistle, but a rose: for he was born in Leeds, though he has been a Londoner since he was four. He lives, in fact, just across the road from the South London Harriers' training area on Farthing Down at Coulsdon in Surrey; and it is there that he carries out the gruelling, unpublicised preparations for his glorious triumphs.

Lucky that he happens to live there? Luck had nothing to do with it. Alick Pirie chose the house because it overlooks Farthing Down.

Luck has had little to do with Pirie's planned, worked for success—apart from the chance that made him unknowingly start training at eight.

A great American coach, the late Lawson Robertson, once said that distance running was not just something you

trained for, but a habit of life, begun ideally in boyhood with long days spent in outdoor pursuits.

Gordon Pirie, at eight, had never heard of Lawson Robertson: but his favourite pastime then, and for the subsequent six years, was going after butterflies and birds' nests, staying out all day cycling, walking or running miles, and coming home scratched, with torn clothes. He may have worried his mother, but he was laying the foundations of distance running success.

At 12 he was racing at school, was frequently off on five- and six-mile runs, and had joined the Harriers. From that day to this, competition has been continuous in school, Army Cadet Corps, Air Training Corps—he served in both!—R.A.F., Inter-Services, club, national and international events. His present success, sceptically hailed in some quarters as 'overnight,' is actually the result of ten hard preparatory years.

In hundreds of races, one that gave him particular satisfaction was the 1950 Inter-Services Mile Championship, in which he finished just behind the already well-known Chris Chataway.



— In the Surrey County C.C. Championships held at Oxted on January 5th, both our teams were placed third. Gordon Pirie pulverised the field over the seven mile course and won in 35.05. 2½ mins. ahead of Chas. Walker (Be'grave). F. J. Orton 13th. P. J. Pirie 16th. J. G. Zaras 25th. C. E. Puddicombe 26th. and T. Richards 37th. were our other scoring counters. In the Junior event over five miles, Peter Driver was our first man home in fourth place, running with more confidence than he usually does over the country, backed up by Colin Wilson, who was eighth in only his second big championship race, and Peter Pitt eleventh. Had Mick Firth not been prevented from running owing to an injury, we would almost certainly have "pipped" Herne Hill Harriers, but M. F. Walmesley, thirty-first, ran well to assure us a place. With Mick back in the team we look forward to the "Southern" with great confidence.



# "Criterium Des As"

Belgium, 24th November

Pirie and Sando brilliant!

ORGANISED by the Brussels newspaper *Le Soir*, once again we had a tremendous spectacle of mass racing and then the "piece de resistance," the international race in which 20 specially invited foreigners clashed with the cream of the Belgian athletes.

Firstly, to deal briefly with the massed start races. The starting arrangement was absolutely unique—the flashing on of a bunch of sodium tubes placed in front of a reflector about 100 yards ahead of the starting line. It will be remembered that last year a false start by the field of several thousand in the "Cros Populaire" resulted in mounted policemen galloping crazily after the runners for a mile to order a recall. The very powerful sodium starting lamp proved very effective.

In the "Cros Populaire," the field of over 3,000 was followed round the 4½ mile course by a red helicopter piloted by a Britisher and a tremendous sight the surging mass must have appeared from the air! Winner was Edouard Dillien whose father had won the race exactly 20 years ago. Over 600 competed in the Youths race won by Julien Schots, of S.C. Anderlecht. Some 600 lined up for the Junior race which went to Denis Jouret by a comfortable margin—an outstanding prospect this lad.

However, to come to the big event of the day. At the start the Dutchman, Van der Verdonck, showed ahead of Wauters and Theys with Pirie and Sando going along easily in the rear. At ¾ mile Vandewattyne had gone ahead and quickened the pace followed by Theys, De Duytsche, Slijkhuis, Daniels and Driss with the English lads not in the first dozen. At the mile mark Gordon Pirie put in a fantastic sprint to move through the field and take a definite lead. Then came Theys, Vandewattyne, Slijkhuis, Serreols, Smets and De Duytsche. By the mile and a quarter mark Vandewattyne had pulled up to Pirie, then, 10 yards behind, came an echelon made up of Theys, Slijkhuis, De Duytsche, Serreols, Hesketh, Daniels, Van Laere, Wauters, Paris, Driss, Lecat, Soucours and Saunders. The French

looked to be in a position to attack in body but no challenge was forthcoming.

Sando Strikes!

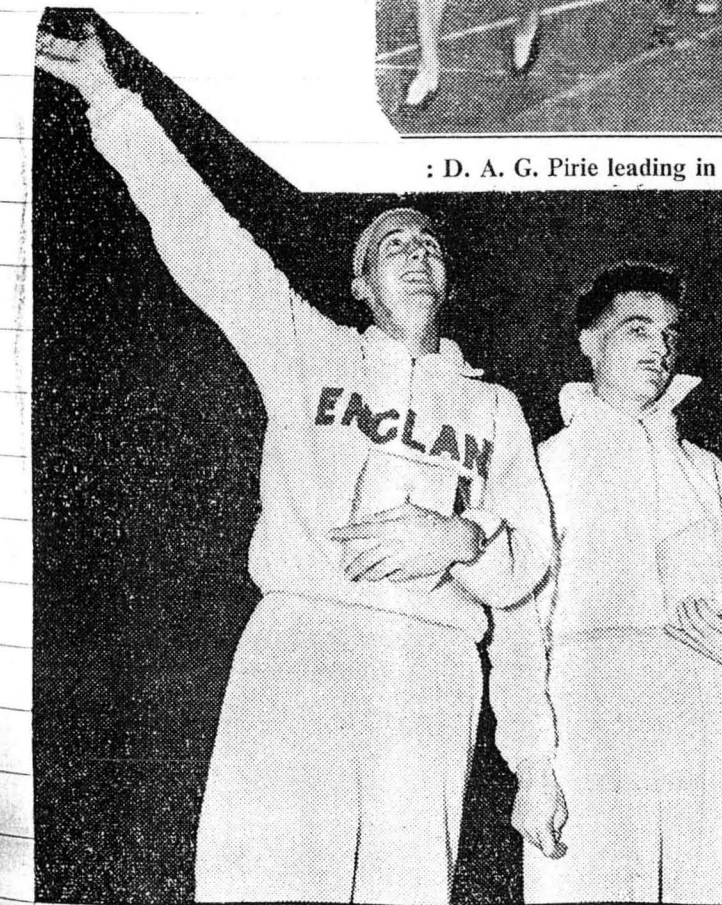
The 21-year-old Aylesford runner had been tucked in behind but the next kilometre showed him moving through in great style to fourth place, Walter Hesketh having strode strongly into the lead closely followed by Pirie and Vandewattyne. The field was now beginning to string out and soon afterwards, the Flying Dutchman, Willem Slijkhuis, dropped out saying that the going did not suit him. At the half-way stage, end of the first lap, Pirie, Vandewattyne, Sando, Hesketh and Theys were together and clear of the next men. Here it was that Pirie accelerated suddenly, Vandewattyne couldn't hold him. The gap increased, 20 metres, 30, 40 . . . with Vandewattyne and Sando fighting out a desperate battle as were Theys and Hesketh another 10 metres back. Sando shook off the Belgian and went after Pirie but could not fully close the gap. Both English boys looked remarkably fresh at the finish whereas Vandewattyne and Theys appeared to have put everything into it in their last desperate sprint to the tape. Walter Hesketh has been concentrating on an intensive building-up programme and will not start to sharpen up until December, so, no doubt, would be well pleased with his performance. Driss and Soucours finished 3rd and 6th in this year's international at Hamilton Park but never looked capable of challenging the leaders. Geoff Saunders is not yet in dominating form but, since the longer and heavier the course the better he likes it, this short, flat course with easy conditions underfoot was not in his favour. England easily took the team award.

D. A. G. Pirie (E.), 25 : 57 ; 2. F. Sando (E.), 25 : 59 ; 3. M. Vandewattyne (B.), 26 : 03 ; 4. L. Theys (B.), 26 : 04 ; 5. W. Hesketh (E.), 26 : 20 ; 6. E. de Duytsche (B. Ind.), 26 : 24 ; 7. A. Paris (F.), 26 : 43 ; 8. R. Serreols (B.), 26 : 48 ; 9. A. Driss (F.), 27 : 06 ; 10. R. Petitjean (F.), 27 : 07 ; 11. A. Wartelle (Flanders), 27 : 08 ; 12. F. Smets (B. Ind.), 27 : 14 ; 13. A.

Southern Counties,  
Cross-Country Championship 1952.



GORDON PIRIE finished uphill in storming fashion at the end of the Southern Senior C.C. Championship.



Gordon Pirie acknowledges the cheers of a Berlin crowd for his latest track feat. He has just won the 5,000 metres for Britain against Germany, with team-mate Freddie Green (on his left) second. Pirie's 14min. 2.6sec. on a wet track was 4.4sec. outside Gundar Haegg's world record, but four seconds faster than Emil Zatopek's Olympic

By GUY BUTLER: Berlin, Saturday

GORDON PIRIE, wonder-runner from Britain, clipped four seconds off Emil Zatopek's Olympic record for the 5,000 metres in today's athletics clash between Britain and Germany in Berlin.

And his tearaway 14 minutes 2.6 seconds was a mere 4.4 seconds slower than the world-record of Sweden's Gundar Haegg.

Experts said the 22-year-old bank clerk would have smashed that world mark too, had it not been for a light rain that fell throughout.

I talked to him before the race, and there was no doubt about it—he was after the world record. At the finish he seemed quite fresh. But he said the track lacked life and in the first three circuits he could not get going properly and at one time was nine seconds behind schedule.

But, good for Britain, there is now no doubt that he is capable of snatching the world record.

Fought it out

Pirie won easily from his colleague, Freddie Green, but what a pity Germany's Hubert Schade was below form.

The German, who finished third in the Helsinki Olympic 5,000 metres, had a damaged ankle today, otherwise he would have pushed Pirie all the way.

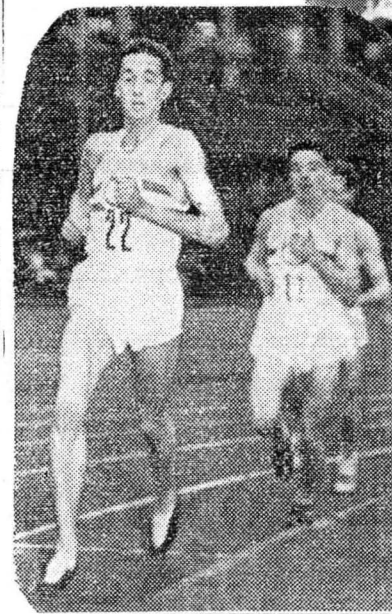
That, I feel sure, would have made Pirie run at least fast enough to get inside Haegg's record.

All praise to Green, who fought it out with Schade and finished second in 14mins. 27.2secs.

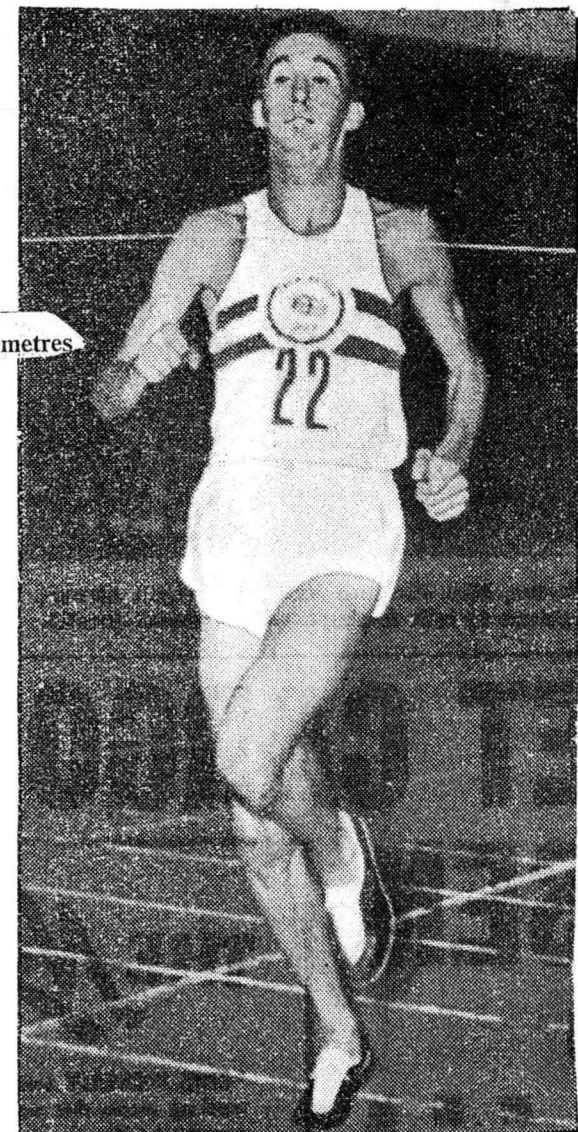
Tomorrow Pirie will, of course, turn out in the 10,000 metres, and it will not astonish me if he runs another very fast race.

The crowd are always delighted with Gordon's trick of doing a slow lap on the grass after the race. This is his method, scientifically approved, of limbering down.

DAS SPANNENDE 5000-M-RENNEN wurde eine sichere Beute der Briten, haben die Kämpfer den Runde um Runde schon gezogen — es geht dem Endspurt entgegen. Auf den Gesichtern der Läufer spiegeln sich deutlich die Strapazen der mörderischen Strecke, und unser Schnappschuß hat die ersten Drei, die genau in der Reihenfolge einliefen, wie unser Bild es zeigt, im rhythmischen Finish festgehalten: vorweg der Sieger, Englands berühmter Pirie, der die 5000 m in der großartigen Zeit von 14:02,6 Minuten gewann. Ihm folgt sein Landsmann Green (Zweiter), den unser Meister Schade nicht mehr zu halten vermochte. Bild: dpa

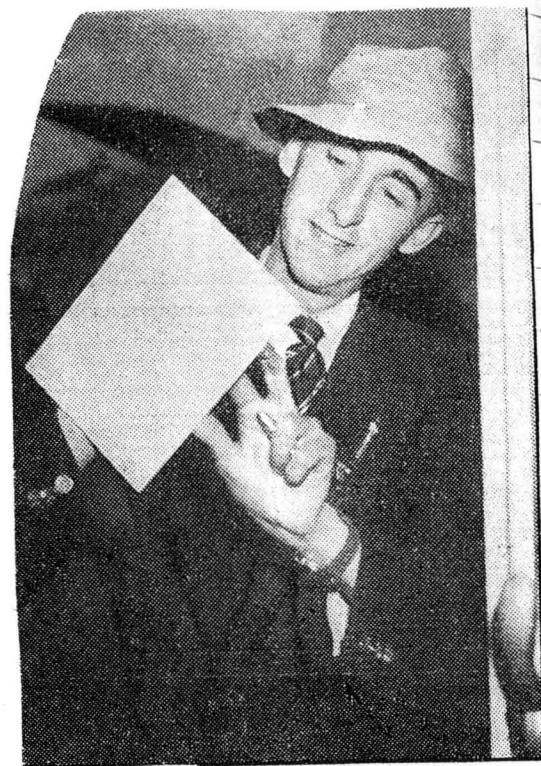
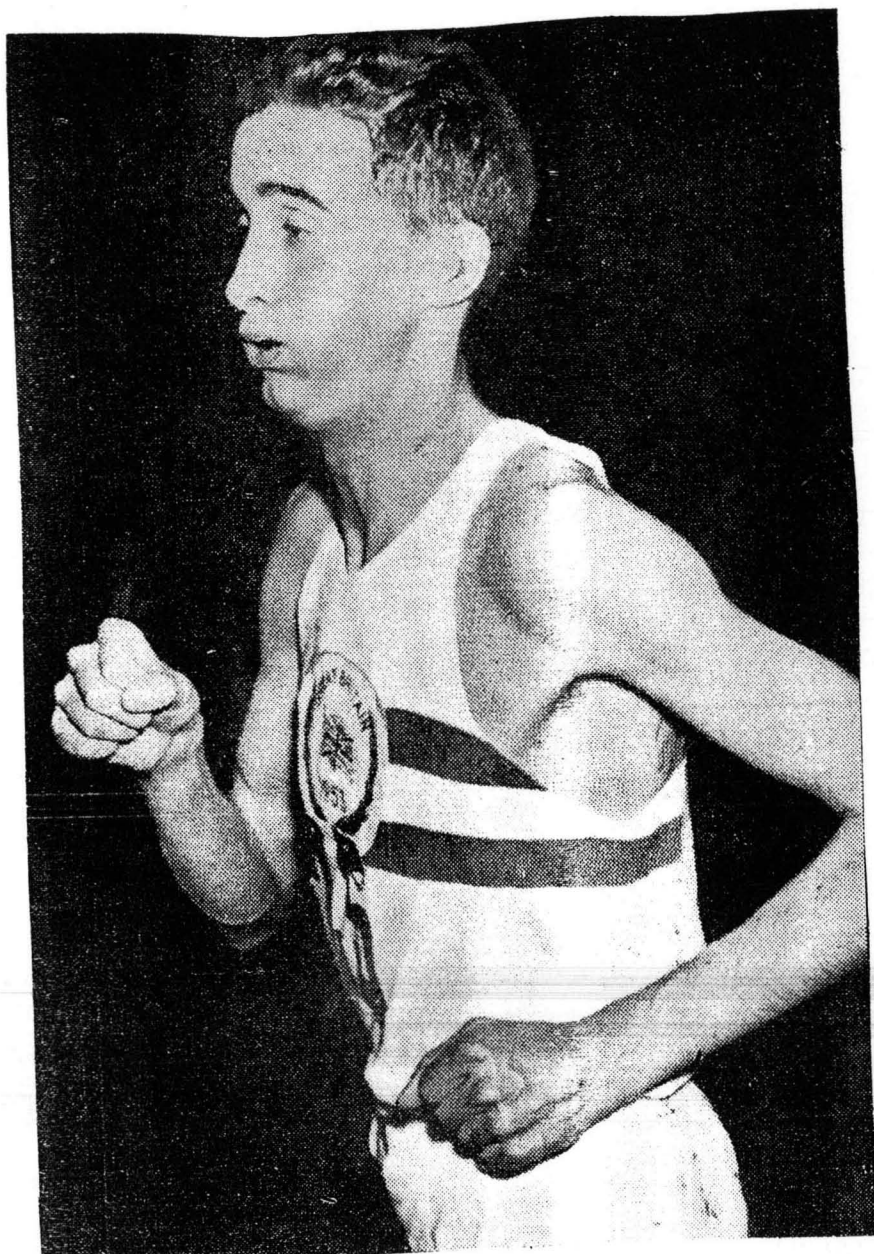


: D. A. G. Pirie leading in the 5,000 metres



Gordon Pirie wins the 5,000 metres in 14m. 2.6s. for Britain at the international athletic meeting with





You can't travel without filling in forms. Gordon Pirie obliges the Swedish authorities on arrival in Stockholm



### PUBLIKIDOL

Hur bejublade de svenska kanonerna Hållsta, Wolfbrandt, Ekfeldt & Co än blev så stats publikgunsten av en engelsman, gänglige fantomlöparen Douglas Alistair Gordon (nu kommer efternamnet) Pirie. Hans solojakt efter diverse Zatopekreord gav en vision av den gamla goda galatiden då världsrekord hörde till vardagsmaten på Stadion.

They used to say "the amazing Zatopek." But now it's "the amazing Pirie."

And this is how Britain's twenty-two-year-old wonder runner strode in to yet another victory — the 10,000 metres at Stockholm. His time, 29m. 17.2s., was the fastest accomplished by any athlete in the world this season. Only one man has ever run faster — Zatopek himself.

BRITAIN v SWEDEN, STOCKHOLM 1953



## PIRIE WINS, BUT RECORD BID FAILS BY 0.2 SEC.

**G**ORDON PIRIE, Britain's wonder runner, won the 10,000 metres on the second night of the Sweden-Gt. Britain athletics match in Stockholm last night, but his attempt to beat Emil Zatopek's Helsinki Olympic record of 29min. 17sec. failed by 0.2sec.

Sweden won the match by 109 points to 103, after they had led overnight by 54-52.

**BEST THIS YEAR**

Pirie's time of 29min. 17.2 sec. was the fastest in the world this year. Frank Sando of Great Britain was second. Zatopek's world record for 10,000 metres is 29min. 2.6sec. He did this in Finland three years ago.

For most of the way it seemed Pirie would put up a new world record. He was inside Zatopek's

time until nearing the 8,000 metres mark. (His intermediate times were: 1,000 metres—2min. 44secs. (14secs. better than Zatopek); 2,000 metres—5min. 38secs. (14secs. better); 3,000 metres—8min. 34secs. (11secs. better); 4,000 metres—11min. 31secs. (9.5secs. better); 5,000 metres—14min. 29secs. (8secs. better); 6,000 metres—17min. 24secs. (7secs. better); 7,000 metres—20min. 21secs. (3secs. better); 8,000 metres—23min. 21secs. (1sec. slower); 9,000 metres—26min. 19sec. (4secs. slower); 10,000 metres—29min. 17.2secs. (14.6secs. slower).)

**STARTED TOO FAST**

When Pirie reached 9,000 metres, after lapping Swedish opponents Jansson and Nilsson, he was four seconds outside Zatopek's record. The crowd cheered him on in a bid to regain those lost seconds.

But it was a superhuman task and it seemed he had run too fast at the start. He finished jogging around the track, still full of running.

Pirie's early pace, plus heavy track from the half an hour before he started, had beaten him.

The final drama all but overshadowed the man who has excited all Sweden—Gordon Pirie. Pirie, although handicapped by a wet track that was two or three inches deep in slush at the bends, had the crowd cheering from the start of the 10,000 metres.

### FASTEST TIME

The Coulsdon bank clerk romped home unchallenged. His time of 29mins. 17.2secs. was the fastest for the distance in the world this year and the fastest ever by a Briton.

He just failed to beat Zatopek's Olympic time, but was well behind Zatopek's world record figures of 29mins. 2.6secs.

After the race Pirie took me to one bend to show me pools of water and oozy mud two or three inches deep.

He said: "I skidded every time I came round here. But for that I should have run much faster. I will do better yet."

Here are Gordon Pirie's times for each 1,000 metres compared with those by Emil Zatopek when he set up the world record of 29mins. 2.6secs in 1950:—

1,000—2mins	44secs	(14secs better)
2,000—5mins	38secs	(14secs better)
3,000—8mins	34secs	(11secs better)
4,000—11mins	31secs	(9.5secs better)
5,000—14mins	29secs	(8secs better)
6,000—17mins	24secs	(7secs better)
7,000—20mins	21secs	(3secs better)
8,000—23mins	21secs	(1sec slower)
9,000—26mins	19secs	(4secs slower)
10,000—29mins	17.2secs	(14.6secs slower)



DAGENS SOLONUMMER  
VAR TRÅDSMALE PIRIES  
MATCH MOT KLOCKAN  
OCH ZATOPERS SKUGGA.

HAN SKENADE FRÅN  
SKUGGAN 14 SEK I EN KICK  
OCH HÖU SO LÄNGE FÖRE

VID 8000

GICK SKUGGAN FÖRBI.

PIRIES TID

N: 2 I

VÄRLDEN!

MATCHEN

ZATOPER-

PIRIE --

TACKAR:

VEN IMAKAD



## Zatopek och Pirie

Hur Zatopek löpte då han satte världsrekordet på 10 000 m och hur Pirie löpte i torsdagens stadionlopp framgår av nedanstående. Inom parentes kilometertiderna.

	Zatopek	Pirie
1 000:	2.58	2.44
2 000:	5.52 (2.54)	5.38 (2.54)
3 000:	8.45 (2.53)	8.34 (2.56)
4 000:	11.40,5 (2.55,5)	11.31 (2.57)
5 000:	14.37 (2.56,5)	14.29 (2.58)
6 000:	17.31 (2.54)	17.24 (2.55)
7 000:	20.24 (2.53)	20.21 (2.57)
8 000:	23.20 (2.56)	23.21 (3.00)
9 000:	26.15 (2.55)	26.19 (2.58)
10 000:	29.02,6 (2.47,6)	29.17,2 (2.58,2)

★



Världens näst bästa 10 000-meterslöpare genom tiderna, engelsmannen Pirie, under sitt bejublade lopp i Stadion på torsdagskvällen.

# Iron man Pirie picks foalskin for record canters

From RALPH HEWINS: Oslo, Monday

WHEN Gordon Pirie, 22-year-old Coulsdon (Surrey) bank clerk, ran the best-ever British 3,000 metres (3,218 yards) at Oslo on Saturday he wore a new pair of 10oz. shoes, lighter than many a Paris mannequin's footwear.

Pirie found a little old cobbler halfway up a mountain at Bergen three weeks ago to make them. The leather is foalskin, lighter and stronger than the kangaroo of Pirie's British shoes or the calf of the pair he got in Germany.

There are only four iron spikes in the Norwegian shoes instead of the usual six and Pirie has cut down the thin raw rubber soles to single thickness, except on the heels where the main jar of the cinders comes.

Thus he saved several fractions of an ounce here and there and lightened the burden he has to carry in his long and frequent races.

He has trimmed down his running vest and shorts to save more fractions.

### LONG WARM-UP

This attention to detail is typical of the Iron Man who has begun to make even the triple Olympics winner Emil Zatopek, the Czech locomotive, look like a slouch.

He warms up for 45 minutes before each race. For another 45 minutes after it is over he warms down. He insists on time to do so.

If necessary he requires the team manager to get special transport to take him to and from the stadium.

In Berlin last month he kept the whole British team waiting in the bus from the stadium after the match so that he could warm down properly.

That takes a lot of nerve for a youngster, but the officials and other athletes see his point of view.

After the England-Sweden match in Stockholm last week Pirie, the groundsmen, and a few reporters waiting for telephones were the only people left in the stadium at ten o'clock at night. The other runners had gone to a castle for a banquet and the prizegiving.

### PRACTICAL JOKER

Pirie is full of fun but takes his sport as seriously as a professor. He likes singing, dancing, souvenir hunting, and practical joking.

Only one thing comes before his ambition to be the world's greatest runner—his work. That is the way champions are made.

Unless he gets married as threatened, no expert can see how anything can prevent him breaking all records between one mile and six during the next few years.

Even Gundar Haegg, retired Swedish world record holder for

the mile, has come round to this view.

Three weeks ago Haegg was saying Pirie would be burned out in two years. But after seeing Pirie run the world's second best 3,000 metres in Stockholm, unpaced on a heavy track, Gundar the Wonder has revised his view.

Pirie is no robot. He can get angry. When he was forced to run in Oslo a fortnight ago to save the promoters, Pirie said: "Yes, I am angry."

But he is still young and modest enough to learn.

He has learned never to race again against his own wishes unless he can do justice to the occasion.

That is why he ran only one race in Stockholm and one in Berlin for England, instead of two in each match.

His determination is unshakable.

He ran his best-ever British 3,000 metres at Oslo on Saturday, unpaced once more, just to prove to himself that the track had no hoodoo over him.

### PEERLESS

Last month he had one of his rare flops here and got a shocking Press. Now he has put things right with himself and his Norwegian public.

He is peerless. He will take on anybody over a mile—Mal Whitfield, American winner of the Olympic 800 metres in 1948 and 1952, the British stars Roger Bannister and Chris Chataway, or Wes Santee, the American ace.

He does not mind being beaten.

What he wants is competition.

He thinks he can do the

mythical four-minute mile if only

somebody will stay the course

with him to drag the last reserve

of strength from his whipcord

body.

He can hardly wait to meet Zatopek and the famous Russians over three and six miles. His range is fantastic.

Unlike most great athletes Pirie does not diet. Not unless you can call his steady consumption of barley sugar "dieting."

We walked miles together in Norway to find some. It gives him the energy he needs.



GORDON PIRIE, 22-årig engelsk långlöparsensation med järnvilja, bekantade sig förstås med Bosöterrängen bara några minuter efter det att han anlänt.

### PIRIE STROLLS TO OSLO TRIUMPH

GORDON PIRIE won the 3,000 metres in 8min 11sec at the Oslo Games yesterday. He led all the way and was never pressed to do a fast time.

The real struggle was for second place between Planck (Denmark) and Saksvik (Norway), the former getting home two seconds ahead, but well behind Pirie.

Pirie's intermediate times were 400 metres in 63sec, 800 (2min 7sec), 1,000 (2-40), 1,500 (4-2), 2,000 (5-25) and 2,400 (6-33).



TV VIEWERS SEE { SANDO REFUSES { 'I WASN'T OUT  
TRACK DISPUTE } TO GIVE WAY } TO HELP PIRIE'

# Gordon Pirie clips 8th record

By FRANK ROSTRON

**A**NOTHER Gordon Pirie record by floodlight—this time in the two miles—was hailed by a cheering crowd of 15,000 when Britain's running freak set up his eighth major record of the season at London's White City last night.

Pirie mowed down the opposition with his usual ease in 8mins. 47.4secs. to beat his own British all-comers' record, set up on the same track three weeks ago, by two-fifths of a second.

His time also broke the British Empire, National, and English native records.

But he was still seven seconds behind the world's best figures of Gaston Reiff, of Belgium.

"That will have to wait till next season," said the unruffled Pirie.

It would have been a near miracle—even for the fantastic Pirie—had he got close to the world record last night.

The track was a little heavy after steady rain, and the eccentric Pirie could not have improved his chances with an amazing, almost inexplicable, sprint at the end of the second lap.

## Goes to front

Pirie for once had not taken the lead at the start, and had been content to run third. But after half a mile he went to the front, only for Frank Sando to try to pass him round the bend.

Pirie sprinted yard for yard with his team-mate to the astonishment of the experts.

The pair appeared to jostle momentarily before Sando ceded the lead to the record-breaker, who promptly went to his old position—right out ahead of the field.

War-time parachutist Freddie Green also passed Sando, and stuck doggedly for a mile and a half.

But none of them had the pace to stretch the galloping bank clerk. It needed a Zatopek there last night to keep Pirie going.

Television viewers, like the experts, were puzzled over Pirie's tussle with Sando. Let the athletes explain.

Pirie: "I knew Sando couldn't take me along fast enough, and was determined to keep the inside berth."

Sando: "I wasn't trying to pace Pirie or help him. I wanted to get the inside lane for myself."



# Pirie Again Lowers the Four Miles Record

By a Special Correspondent

The joint floodlit sports arranged by Birchfield Harriers and Birchfield Cycling Club at the Alexander Ground, Perry Barr, on Saturday proved the best promotion of its kind seen in the Midlands. A comprehensive programme included a match between the A.A.A., the Netherlands, Wales and the Midlands, a women's match between equivalent sides, a special four miles international race, a cycling match for the Festival trophy, and three classes of horse-jumping. Outstanding was the performance of D. A. G. Pirie in establishing a new British best and English native record of 18min. 35.6sec. in the four-mile race.

Pirie's time surpassed the previous best, ratified at a meeting of the A.A.A. in Birmingham during the afternoon, of 18min. 45.2sec., set up by himself at the White City on July 10 last.

At the end of the first mile, covered in 4min. 39.8sec., it was obvious that Pirie would succeed. He covered the second mile in an aggregate time of 9min. 14.8sec. and the third in 13min.

## PIRIE'S RECORDS THIS YEAR

English native records set up by D. A. G. Pirie at six distances this year were ratified by the Amateur Athletic Association in Birmingham on Saturday. They are:—

Distance	Date	min.	sec.
Mile and a half	May 2	6	39
	May 25	6	35.8
	Sept. 9	6	35.6
Two miles	Sept. 9	8	47.8
Three miles	June 20	13	41.8
	Aug. 1	13	36.2
Four miles	July 10	18	45.2
Five miles	July 10	23	34.2
Six miles	July 10	28	19.4

Pirie set up still better figures for two miles, 8min. 47.4 sec., at the White City last Wednesday and for four miles, 18min. 35.6sec., at Perry Barr on Saturday. His six miles time is a world record also.

53.2sec. In so doing he got clear away from the opposition, although the men who finished nearest to him—F. Sando and R. Hatton—did far better than they had previously.

The race, a challenge match between the English team that had won the International cross-country title in Paris last March, and the Rest, was won by the reigning internationals by 32 points to 50.

Four miles challenge match: 1. D. A. G. Pirie, South London H. (England), 18min. 35.6sec. (British best performance and English native record); 2. F. D. Sando, Aylesford Paper Mills (England), 18min. 51.6sec.; 3. R. Hatton, Birchfield (Rest), 19min. 11sec.; 4. P. J. Pirie, South London (Rest); 5. C. M. Gray, Small Heath (England); 6. D. J. Pearsall, Tipton (Rest); 7. D. Holden, Cambridge (England); 8. D. Walker, Sheffield United (England); 9. W. P. Ranger, Eastbourne Rovers (England); 10. W. Boak, Elswick (England); 11. A. Chorlton, Manchester A.C. (Rest); 12. E. L. Hardy, Derby & City (Rest); 13. A. E. Dalton, Birchfield (England); 14. R. Reid, Birchfield (Rest); 15. D. F. Foster, Rotherham (England). Team placings: England 32pts., Rest 50.

Mayor of Birmingham presents a stopwatch to D. A. G. Pirie, who broke the English record for four miles.



BRITAIN'S BEST . . . Gordon Pirie winning the four miles team match to set up yet another record.



## Pirie chips two miles record

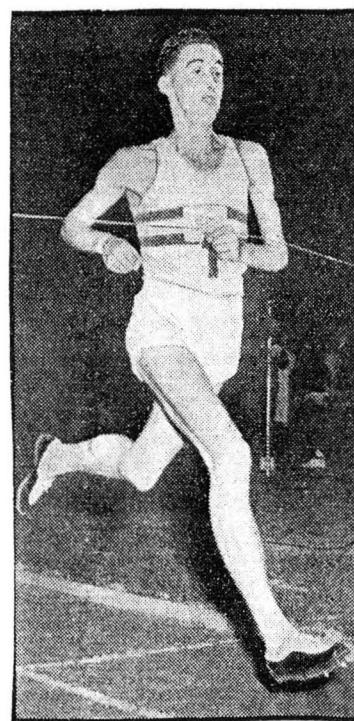


**OUT** strides the amazing Gordon Pirie (No. 1) on his way to a new British-all-comers' record for the two miles at the floodlit White City meeting last night. Time: 8mins. 47.8secs.

Peerless Pirie, running for the Banks team, takes a quick lead from J. W. Hovell (Business Houses, No. 32), bearded D. H. Robinson (Tyrian, 39) and L. Blackeby (Stock Exchange, 8) on the first lap.

But Pirie started too fast. That killed his chance of clocking in at 8mins. 45secs., as planned.

CITY CHARITIES SPORTS  
WHITE CITY 1953



**PIRIE AGAIN.** "Wonder" distance runner Gordon Pirie winning the two miles at the White City, London, last night in 8min. 47.8sec. He now holds all the British and English records from 1½ to six miles.

## PIRIE: BRITISH 2-MILE RECORD

### WORLD BID FAILS AT WHITE CITY

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
D. A. G. Pirie added another to his long list of British records when he won the two-mile race under floodlights at the White City last night in 8min 47.8sec—1.6sec faster than C. J. Chataway's previous best, created on the same track last May.

Although Pirie did not succeed in breaking the world record, as he had set out to do, his performance is nevertheless remarkable since it was done late at night and in very cold conditions.

One of a big field of well over 30, Pirie set the pace from the start, covering the first lap in 63.6sec and the first half-mile in 2min 8.8sec. He was then 20 yards ahead of the next runner, his brother Peter.

He reached the mile in 4min 21.4sec, 35 yards ahead of the next, and 50 yards farther on he began to lap the field.

Pirie sped past the mile-and-a-half post in 6min 35.8sec to equal his own English native record for the distance, and finished, to a storm of cheering, 19sec ahead of M. R. Maynard and almost half a minute in front of Peter Pirie, third.

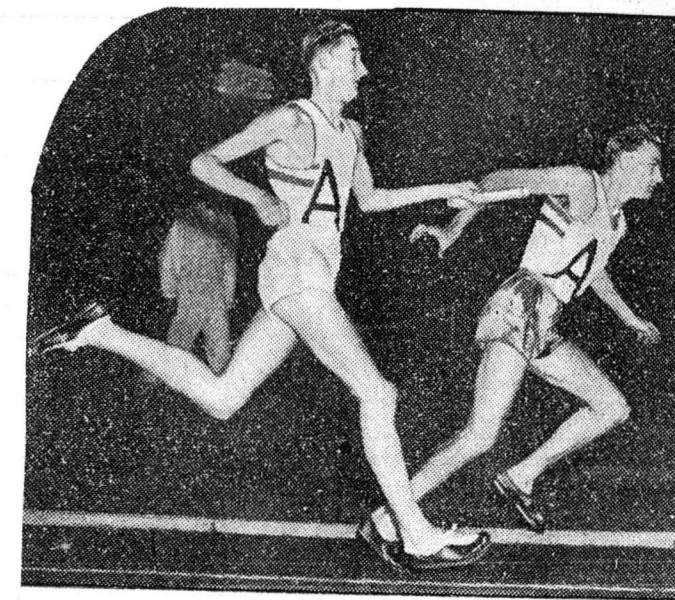
After thus breaking the British all-comers' British national, British Empire and English native records, Pirie pulled up, scarcely breathing hard, demonstrating clearly that under better conditions and with someone to force him he can cover this distance many seconds faster.

4x1,500 metres RELAY WORLD RECORD  
"EVENING NEWS" FLOODLIGHT SPORTS, WHITE CITY, 1953.



A dramatic moment in the great relay race at the White City. Gordon Pirie takes the baton from David Law with Sweden leading by 12 yards.

## A FIVE-YARD LEAD FOR NANKEVILLE



**PIRIE PASSES THE BATON FOR THE FINAL LEG**  
The crowd were on their feet yelling with excitement.

Their challengers were teams from Sweden—the former world record holders—and Germany.

They're off! And straight-away it became a fight between the British and the Swedes.

Ralph Dunkley did well to hold Olympic finalist Ingvar Eriksson to three yards, but David Law lost another three yards to another Olympic finalist, Olle Aberg.

So Pirie, at No. 3, started his leg of the relay well behind. The crowd roared as he raced after Tore Lundberg and passed him within 600 metres.

### Cheering dies

The cheering hushed when Lundberg took the lead again.

But the Englishman went after him like a sprinter and tore into the straight to give Nankeville a five-yard lead for the final leg.

Nankeville was passed at the half distance by Sune Karlsson. He hung on until 200 metres from home, then pulled out everything, passed the Swede, and hit the tape.

The crowd was on its feet. TV viewers were on the edge of their chairs. Britain had snatched the record—15mins. 27.2secs.



**WORLD RECORD HOLDERS.** The victorious British 4 x 1,500 metres relay team had every right to feel pleased with themselves when this picture was taken at the White City last night—they had just beaten the world record for the event. Their time of 15min 27.2sec beat the previous best by 3sec. The team (LEFT to RIGHT) are: R. H. Dunkley, D. C. Law, D. A. G. Pirie and G. W. Nankeville.





GORDON PIRIE, 22-year-old Surrey bank clerk, cross-country champion and world record holder at six miles, has, by his versatility on the running track this year, earned himself the soubriquet of "the British Zatopek." After winning the international mile race at the White City last Saturday, he said he thought he could, if properly paced, run the elusive four-minute mile, and above he is seen with the aid of a youthful timekeeper and Laurie Reed, a promising 17-year-old miler from Reigate Grammar School.

## GORDON PIRIE AT WOKING



Gordon Pirie sets off on his record-breaking lap in the Surrey County Road Race at Woking on Saturday. His team, South London Harriers, won the event in the best ever time of 1hr. 24min. 2sec. Gordon's time was 13min. 25sec. for the 2.94 miles lap.

## FAMOUS RUNNER AT WOKING FOR 1953 ROAD RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP

For the first time on record the John Underhill Memorial Trophy, and the 1953 Road Relay Championship, goes to South London Harriers. The relay which was run from Woking Park on Saturday, consisted of six laps, and each man from the ten teams competing had to run one lap of 2.94 miles.

Running for the S.L. Harriers was Gordon Pirie, Britain's 22-year-old wonder runner. Last year in this relay he set up a record of 13.26 mins., and on Saturday he beat his own record by one second. Also running in this team was Gordon's brother, P. J. Pirie. The Woking team, although putting up a good show could not match the excellence of the other teams. They were placed ninth. The overall time made at Woking was 99.45 mins.

The Woking team was: I. Burnett, J. Beedie, G. Edwards, T. Evans, B. Marlow, J. Hone.

Ferne Hill Harriers (85.4) and Belgrave Harriers (86.19) were placed second and third respectively.

Mr. W. L. Darby, Woking Council Chairman, presented the trophies and medals. The officials were: Mr. F. W. Norris (referee), Mr. J. Braben (judge), Mr. H. Hathway and Mr. J. Hirschfield (timekeepers), Mr. J. Wates (competitors' steward), Mr. P. Elphick (clerk of the course), and Woking A.C. (pointsmen).

Owing to the non-arrival of their sixth man, Croydon were unable to finish the course. Other teams competing were Guildford and Godalming, Epsom and Ewell, Surrey, Sutton and Chelmsford, and Mitcham.



THE long legs which are taking their owner into the exclusive ranks of the world's greatest athletes strode through Croydon Market to-day to a salad lunch. And as the slim shatterer of track records walked stallholders and shopkeepers said: "There goes our Gordon."

For Gordon Pirie, the man who thinks the four-minute mile is just a matter of serious training, won the hearts of Croydon's market folk long before he started bringing White City crowds to their feet.

To-day Gordon Pirie left his Coulsdon home and climbed 60 steps to his office in the trustee department of Lloyds Bank, Croydon branch.

At lunch-time he walked unnoticed across Croydon High-street to the market where for two years he has eaten his mid-day meal at the 54 Cafe.

As he went there were shouts of



Gordon Pirie in Croydon to-day.

"Well done Gordon. Keep it up." Gordon smiled the smile of a confident man—a man who is working towards a goal, the smashing of the records held by Zatopek (10,000 metres) and Gundar Haegg (5,000 metres).

To-night, if you take an evening stroll across the countryside around his home, you will see the miracle man of the track working to his "beat-the-records plan."

## PROGRESS

By the time he goes to bed he will have run three-quarters of a mile six times and spent a total of three hours training.

He does it by post in letters from Waldemar Gerschler. Each week a letter postmarked Freiburg, Southern Germany, drops through his letter-box. In it Gerschler, who trained Olympic champion Josey Barthell of Luxemburg, sets Pirie his training tasks.

Pirie reports progress also by letter—and the better he does the harder Gerschler makes him work.

Says 22-year-old Gordon, "It's tough, but it's the only way."

The way to what? To putting Britain back in the world's athletic records lists.

And the man who walked through Croydon Market to-day believes he can do it.

When? Says the man they call "Our Gordon" in Croydon Market: "In two years time I



# DON'T STRAIN PIRIE

German coach  
warns: Careful  
build-up

From ALAN HUMPHREYS  
FREIBURG, Friday.

GORDON PIRIE'S German coach, Woldemar Gerschler, today warned the British that they are demanding too much of their No. 1 record-breaking athlete—and too soon.

He said: "It may seem strange to them to hear that such a man with such a record must be spared. They believe he is already at his peak.

"But he is much too young. His development is not yet complete. He must be handled with care.

"If the British people will be patient they will get a great athlete who will do everything they expect of him. When I told this to Pirie last night it was news to him, too."

Pirie is nearly 23. Gerschler does not expect him to enter his "phase of greatness" until he is 26, when "his best distance will be 10,000 metres. Then he will go on for six, seven, maybe eight years."

## Fixed times

In Freiburg University stadium today Gerschler supervised Pirie's two and a half hour non-stop training.

A heavy autumn mist hung over the thickly wooded Black Forest hills surrounding the stadium as Pirie, in a woollen bright blue track-suit, jogged around for his first hour.

During his second hour, Pirie interrupted his jog-trot, took off his track-suit, and raced 1,000 yards four times. His times were not fast for competitive running, but fast for training.

The essence of them was Gerschler's demand that he should run each half-lap at times fixed in advance. For most of them Pirie was exact and never more than half a second out.

## Mind marathon

Gerschler is director of the University's Institute of Physical Training. He has introduced a scientific system which aims at producing a complete man or woman rather than a running machine.

The mind and character and morale are just as important in this system as the muscles and lungs.

Pirie has done one "marathon" in this visit to Freiburg—a "marathon of the mind."

For an hour he worked over large yellow sheets covered with columns of figures which he had to add up, but never carrying on more than one digit.

Said Gerschler: "In that test Pirie broke all records for all sportsmen tested at Freiburg."



PIRIE and GERSCHLER: They corresponded for a year.

## PIRIE IMPRESSES HIS COACH

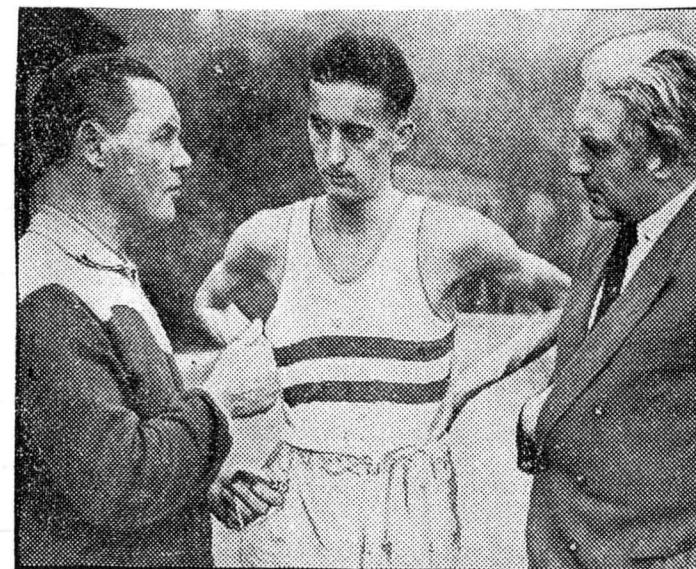
BERLIN, Monday.—Twice today Britain's record-breaking athlete Gordon Pirie trained in Freiburg University Stadium with his German coach Woldemar Gerschler, who has been coaching him by letter and telegram.

Tonight Pirie, asked why he had a German coach, said: "Whether it's an Eskimo or a Chinaman, if he's a good coach that's all that matters."

Pirie is to be examined by Freiburg's celebrated heart and kidney specialist, Professor Reindell.

Gerschler is greatly impressed by Pirie's intense concentration. "I have never seen anything like it before," he declared tonight.

The runner is staying with his coach, Gerschler, who has a son and a daughter, said: "He is our third child."—D.M. Reporter.



## Pirie Trains in Germany

Record-breaking Gordon Pirie, the 22-year-old British long-distance runner, is training at Freiburg, Germany, under coach Woldemar Gerschler (left) and Professor Herbert Reindell (right), a leading medical authority who has carried out endurance tests on many top athletes. Gerschler believes that Pirie will be able to crack Emil Zatopek's Olympic record for the 10,000 metres next year.

## Pirie and his professor



BRITAIN'S wonder runner Gordon Pirie sets off on another track dash—this time at Freiburg, watched by his German adviser, Woldemar Gerschler, professor at Freiburg University.

They are together for the first time since they met at the Olympic Games in Helsinki last year.

In the meantime the professor has been coaching Pirie by post.

## Pirie Tip-Toes Home

GORDON PIRIE is back in England. He tip-toed into his father's Coudon, Surrey, home at five this morning after a long train and plane journey from the Black Forest town of Freiburg, where he has been seeing his German coach. When I phoned his mother this morning I was told that he was asleep and not to be disturbed.

His journey has not been in vain. After hours of tests Dr Kurt Reindell confirms the view that Pirie will find his best distance at around six miles rather than the one mile.

This does not, however, mean that Pirie will not try to close the 6.8 seconds gap which still separates him from the 3.1-mile 4-minute mile. In the Freiburg physiology laboratories he has been called the man with the Rolls-Royce heart.





Like most sportsmen, Pirie obliges the autograph hunters, but he has no time for "English gentleman stuff" in athletics. His aim is victory: "grinding my opponents into the ground"



Britain's wonder athlete, Gordon Pirie, bank clerk, of Coulsdon, Surrey, went to the pictures yesterday to see his favourite "villain" — Czechoslovakia's ace, Emil Zatopek, who beat Gordon's 28min. 19.4sec. six-mile world record this month by 11sec. The news film showed Zatopek in action and Gordon was there to study points which might help in his attempt to regain the record next year. Here you see him looking at the film.

**ATHLETICS:** 'I've a long way to go,' says Gordon

## ZATOPEK WILL 'RUN' IN PIRIE'S HOME

**GORDON PIRIE**, Britain's athlete of the year, is to give a one-man cinema show at his Coulsdon home—with plenty of repeat performances.

A newsreel company is presenting him with a copy of the latest available film of Emil Zatopek in action.

As Pirie has a home projector, he will be able to study the great Czech runner's technique at his leisure.

Pirie has left a trail of wrecked world, British and English records behind him this year but he is spurred to even greater training effort by the hope of smashing Zatopek's world records and of beating him in the 5,000 and 10,000 metre events at the European championships next year.

He visited the newsreel company's private cinema yesterday to see a film featuring some of his own

**By George Harley**

of Zatopek winning a recent 5,000 metres race in Prague.

As the Czech flashed along the track, Pirie exclaimed: "Can't the film be slowed down to its proper speed?" Then he remembered that this was the race in which Zatopek put in a finishing 200 metres in 29s.

**Better Than Ever**

"He is running better than ever," said Pirie. "I have a long way to go before I can expect to beat him."

motion in the cutting room and told me that he has watched the film of the last Olympic 5,000 metres final, won by Zatopek, twelve times.

"I ran in that final yet remember very little about it," he said, "as I was semi-conscious for the last three laps after taking too much out of myself earlier in the race."

Pirie said he had been criticised "inside the sport" for placing himself in the hands of the German coach, Woldemar Gerschler, who has sent him his training schedules by post and even by telegram. "These critics say I should have an English coach," he said, "but Gerschler has



## 'YOUTH NEEDS MORE SPORT—LESS PING-PONG, JAZZ AND NECKING'

YOUTH clubs which go in for "a lot of ping-pong, jazz and necking" came in for outspoken criticism by the headmaster of Purley County Grammar School for Boys, Dr. H. Birchall, when he spoke at Friday's civic reception to Gordon Pirie.

After paying tribute to his old pupil—"it's only six years since he won the junior mile at school,"—Dr. Birchall urged that Pirie's achievements should receive more tangible recognition in the creation of a running track, or—that great need of the district—a swimming baths.

"I don't want to sound dissatisfied about youth clubs; they work under very great difficulties," said Dr. Birchall. "But one sometimes feels that the attitude towards these clubs is that they exist for the purpose of protecting the community from the spirit of the more rebellious boys.

"While youth clubs make a contribution, I think that many of them tend to be of the kind to go in for a lot of ping-pong, jazz and necking, and some of the youth might better be employed in other ways.

"A cinder-track and swimming pool would satisfy a long-felt want in this district. In the savage north these things were provided fifty years ago, and there should be more of them in the south.

"I would like to suggest that the council take very seriously these suggestions."

## They packed council hall to honour 'model citizen'

TOP citizens of Coulsdon and Purley met in Purley Council Chamber on Friday night to do honour to one of the nation's top athletes, Gordon Pirie, whose home is in Coulsdon, and who—in the words of a resolution presented to him at the reception—has brought "honour to his family, to Coulsdon and Purley, and to his country."

Scores of cups, trophies, plaques and other awards won by Pirie were on display in the council chamber where the reception was held, and over a hundred guests, including all the members of the council, were present to shake Gordon by the hand.

The reception was given by the chairman of the council, Coun. F. N. Charlton, who, with Mrs. Charlton, received the guests, and introduced them to Gordon Pirie and members of his family.

Coun. Charlton said this was an occasion unique and unprecedented in the annals of the council.

After referring to the distinguished athletic record of Mr. Pirie's father, and paying tribute to the prowess of his brother Peter—"and I must not forget your mother who must regard herself as one of the architects of your athletic prowess,"—Coun. Charlton said that a colossal army of fans had followed every step and every stride of Gordon Pirie.

### "A MODEL CITIZEN"

"And he has done all this with no spirit of boasting and vain glory in his achievement," said Coun. Charlton. "It is a great thing for our district and for our council to have him as a pattern citizen."

One repercussion from Gordon Pirie's achievements was the demand in the district for a running track. Previous councils had endowed the district with parks and open spaces but it was a fact that there had been no very great provision for athletics.

The resolution of the council paying tribute to Mr. Pirie was read by the Clerk, Mr. E. F. J. Felix, and the engrossed vellum was then presented to him.

Among those who followed with tribute were Sir Ambrose Keevil, chairman of Surrey County Playing Fields Association, Mr. Charles Doughty, M.P. for East Surrey, and the headmaster of Pirie's old school, Dr. H. Birchall.

Replying to the tributes, Gordon Pirie said he felt like David among the Goliaths.

"Records don't really mean anything," he said. "I'm still behind on world standards, and have quite a long way to go before I am on top as far as the world is concerned."



Those gleaming trophies in the foreground are but a few of the honours won by Gordon Pirie, the famous Coulsdon athlete who was feted on Friday evening. Mr. Charles Doughty, M.P., and Mrs. Doughty (left) and Coun. F. N. Charlton and Mrs. Charlton (right) surround Mr. Pirie as he reads the council's tribute from his home town.

Inter Counties  
Cross-Country Championship  
1952

## Lancashire Keep Daily Telegraph Cup

By LAINSON WOOD

BRITAIN'S Olympic hopes continue to be raised. After young Douglas Pirie's success in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH Inter-County Cross-country Championship at York on Saturday who can deny the pleasing prospect of this immensely improved young runner getting at least a scoring place in the first six of the 10,000 metres at Helsinki in July?

Pirie put nearly a quarter of a mile between himself and the rest of the field on a skilfully chosen course of one lap of one and a half miles and three of two miles on the Rowntree's Sports Ground. The course was just heavy in the best parts and definitely heavy in the worst, with a frozen surface on the ploughed-up parts for variation.

It zig-zagged over the spacious Rowntree's enclosure and out of it across neighbouring farmland. It was fairly flat, but definitely not easy and could have been a brute if it had been a wet day.

Pirie's time of 41min 7sec was highly commendable, though it was 1min 8sec outside his time of a year ago over the same distance when he was second to Dr. Frank Aaron, unfortunately a non-runner this year. But then times in cross-country are never comparable.

### ALWAYS LEADING

The Lord Mayor of York, Alderman W. H. Kaye, set the field of 238 runners off on their arduous trek at three o'clock sharp. There was a stretch of 200 yards or more to the first bend, which Pirie took in the lead. He was never again headed or even challenged.

Pirie settled into a long, lovely, loping stride which carried him smoothly round the entire course—with perhaps a little prudent tip-toeing over the frozen ground. He was always increasing the distance between himself and the field and the measure of his performance is perhaps that he all but lapped the hindmost, that is to say beating him by very nearly two miles.

There is now an ease and grace about Pirie's running suggestive of enormous reserves and infinite staying power and had there been anyone to press him his time would undoubtedly have been better.

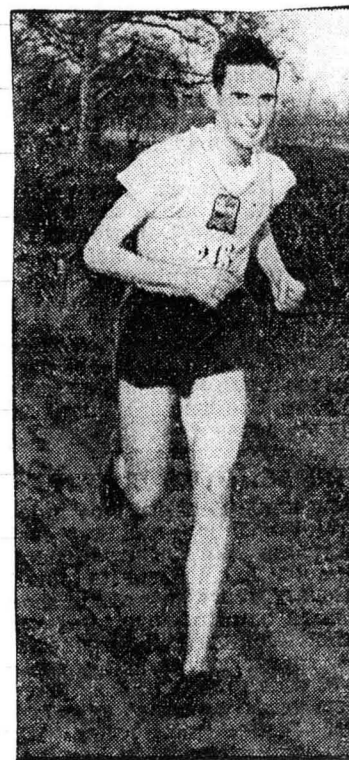
Len Eyre, of Yorkshire, showed the way to the rest of the field with commendable persistence but he was 350 to 400 yards and exactly a minute in time behind Pirie, whose breathing at the finish would scarcely have blown out a match.

### 50 MILES EACH WEEK

There will be custodians of Britain's Olympic fortunes who will hope to dissuade Pirie from taking part in the National (individual) cross-country championship at Great Barr, Birmingham, on March 8, especially if the going should worsen.

Pirie, as indeed is the right of every amateur, will decide for himself. He has prescribed his own method for keeping in training and it is running.

Though he will not be 21 until next month Pirie, who works in a bank at Coulsdon, Surrey, reckons to run 50 to 60 miles a week. He ran in racing and training 2,700 miles in 1951. He is so much better a runner for it that he should be allowed to go his own way.



DOUGLAS PIRIE, running on his own at the head of the huge County Cross-country Championship field at York on Saturday. He finished the 7½ miles one minute before the next man home, Len Eyre.

SURREY COUNTY  
ROAD RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1952



GORDON PIRIE handing over to brother Peter, after his record run in the Surrey County Relay



# ENGLISH CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP BIRMINGHAM 1952

A SOLITARY figure appeared on a beauty spot, near Birmingham, the winning post. The red banner once it was Walter Hesketh, the cross-country title at his first attempt. Ten miles over a course punishing enough to daunt the brave, yet this 21-year-old Manchester runner finished full of fire, slamming 415 opponents and beating his great Surrey rival, Gordon Pirie, a full 300 yards.

It was a blown and distressed Pirie who struggled into second place. For nearly eight miles he fought it out shoulder to shoulder with Hesketh across hilly grassland, through a ploughed field, over the towering Beacon, and down again. The rest of the field was trailing.

The watching crowd expected the pair to come over the big hill the second time still together.

Hesketh told me afterwards: "Going up the hill for the last time I made my effort and, suddenly, Pirie was no longer with me."

## Advice to Pirie

Pirie ran in well enough, but was soon complaining of a strained tendon, and was carried to the dressing-rooms by his brother. The injury must have affected him in the late stages—but the winner was undoubtedly the better man over this alpine course.

Pirie is lean and frail looking, a more delicate racing machine than the sturdy Hesketh. He had to shorten his long, flowing stride to negotiate the climbs.

Hesketh came to the race the fresher man. "I've saved myself for this championship," he had said, "and I am going to win it."

Pirie might do well to miss the international race in Glasgow on March 22. The Olympic 10,000 metres should now be his main objective. Hesketh told me he thinks he himself will be better on the track than over country, so we look like being well off for stayers at Helsinki.

## Peters's speed

There was a terrific race for fourth place, behind F. Norris (Bolton). Frank Sando (Aylesford), only 20, looked certain of it until Jim Peters came at him 20 yards from the post, and just got up. This was a great effort by Peters, showing Britain has found a marathon champion with finishing speed.

Another fine performance was Dr. Frank Aaron's tenth place. Winner of the race for the past three years, he had not had much time for training. He has been busy with exams, and, in addition, is leaving Leeds this week to take up a post at Stockport Infirmary.



Photo by H. W. Neale.

WALTER HESKETH (Manchester A. & C.C.) (eventual winner) leading from D. A. G. (Gordon) PIRIE (South London H.) in the English C.C. Championship at Birmingham. Last year Gordon beat Walter in the British 6 miles track championship in the new native record time of 29 mins. 32 secs. Subsequently in the Great Britain v. France match, Walter reversed the position, passing the 5 miles stage in native record time of 24 mins. 28 secs. and winning at 6 miles in the new all-comers' record time of 29 mins. 13.8 secs.



Walter Hesketh leading Gordon Pirie in the Senior Championship.



Gordon PIRIE

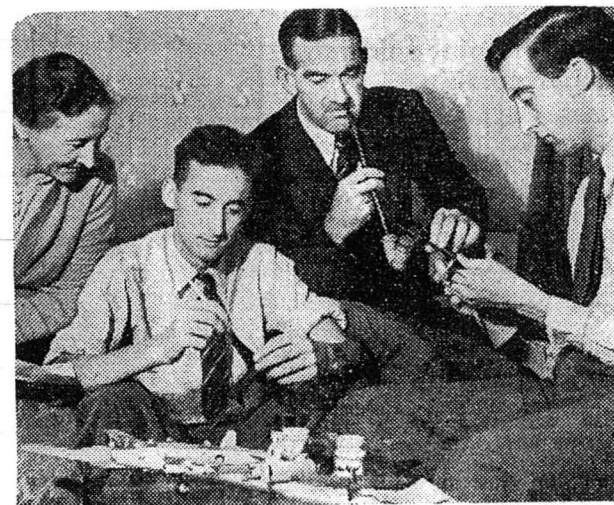
## Pirie's Brilliant Performance

THE 26th "Le Soir" cross-country race took place on Sunday, November 25th, on a water-logged 4½-mile course in depressing weather. First of all, at 10-30 a.m. a youths' race with over 500 starters, was run off. Then came the "Test of the Aces," the invitation international race, with outstanding runners from Belgium, France, Holland, Luxembourg and England taking part. Then followed the mammoth "Cros Populaire" in which the field of nearly 2,500 runners went off to a false start and had to be chased and recalled by mounted policeman amid scenes of great excitement.

However, we are concerned only with the race in which the English runners took part. After a few hundred yards Gordon Pirie was setting the pace ahead of the two French Moroccans, Driss and Mahjoub, then Eddie Hardy, Lucien Theys and Baldwyns. Came the mile mark with Pirie still forging along 15 yds. ahead of Theys. Vandewattynne, another 10 yds., then Baldwyns, Van Laere, Driss, Nevens, Serreols, Petitjean and Hesketh who had moved through steadily from the rear of the field. They passed Pirie at around 1½ mile, but the tall South London man was soon on terms again and, at the half distance, they were together 40 yds. clear of Vandewattynne, then a gap of 50 yds. and Driss, Hesketh, Baldwyns, Nevens and Saunders in 12th place. On they went with the two leaders locked together in a desperate struggle until the last 400 yds., when the

1950 international champion, Theys, fought his way ahead to win by 50 yds., looking much the worse for wear, with Pirie coming in comparatively fresh. The ace French sports writer, Mayer, said afterwards that he'd been greatly impressed by Pirie and compared him with the great Gundar Haegg. Walter Hesketh similarly impressed by his nicely controlled race and romped home comfortably in 4th place. Hardy, who came into the team to replace Frank Aaron whose training has been interrupted by Achilles tendon trouble, ran a great race and beat Driss after a fine tussle. Driss, said to be potentially a greater runner than his North African countryman Mimoun, on this occasion did not run in bare feet but his erect, short-striding action is identical with that of Mimoun. Geoff Saunders was not seen to advantage on this short, flat course but will undoubtedly shake them up over the full cross-country distance later on. The three to count international team race was won by England with 12 pts., Belgium "A," 14 pts., Racing Club de France 28 pts.

Results: 1, Theys (Belg.), 26 mins 47 secs.; 2, Pirie (E.), 26:58; 3, Vandewattynne (Belg.), 27:36; 4, W. Hesketh (E.), 27:46; 5, Nevens (Belg. "B"), 28:02; 6, Hardy (E.), 28:04; 7, Driss (R.C. Fr.), 28:07; 8, Petitjean (Ind. Fr.), 28:08; 9, Baldwyns (Belg. "B"), 28:09; 10, Van Laere (Belg. "A"), 28:11; 11, Serreols (Ind.), 28:17; 12, De Duytsche (Ind.), 28:19; 13, Aberlenc (R.C. Fr.), 28:26; 14, Saunders (E.), 28:29; 15, De Raedt (Ind.), 28:33.



CHIEF home hobby of the Pirie family is making model aeroplanes. Here they are in their Coulsdon (Surrey) house. Douglas Gordon Alistair—he prefers to be called Gordon—who runs for Britain in the Olympic Games 5,000 and 10,000 metres is between his mother and father with brother Peter on the right. They are an athletic family. Mrs Pirie plays golf. Her husband, Alick, Scottish cross-country international in 1926, is president of South London Harriers, of which Peter, also a runner, is secretary.

As might well be imagined this House of Talent is full of cups and other trophies. Gordon owes much to his father, a confirmed smoker of churchwarden pipes, who encouraged his son to run his first five miles at the age of ten. This season Gordon equalled the world's second fastest time over six miles of 28 mins 55.6 secs. Later he knocked eight seconds off Sydney Wooderson's record time for the three miles of 13 mins. 53.2 secs. This tall, dark Scot runs about eight miles a day in training, often in hob-nailed boots—because he goes so much faster when he leaves them off. His big worry is his large appetite. He reckons he spends more than 35s a week on food to supplement the normal ration and one fear of the family is that Gordon will be tempted to over-eat in Finland.

## Olympic Hopes—By Norris McWhirter

### PIRIE v ZATOPEK

IN 1946 Sydney Wooderson set a new British three-mile record six yards a lap faster than any Englishman had ever run before. Little wonder many thought that his record of 13min 53.2sec could safely be inscribed in the record book in indelible ink.

Imagine then the astonishment of 25,000 people at the White City Stadium when it was announced that Douglas Alistair Gordon Pirie had broken Wooderson's record by over eight seconds.

Olympic forecasts for the 5,000 and 10,000 metres are hastily being amended. To the public at large the 6ft 1in 21-years-old bank clerk from Coulsdon, Surrey is a new name, but track fans have been watching his steady progress for the last five seasons.

Third and youngest son of the

1926 Scottish cross-country international Alick Pirie, Gordon was out running five miles across country at the age of 10. He is a member of South London Harriers. In training he wears hob-nailed Army boots weighing 7lb each—he finds that he runs so much faster when he leaves them off.

Gordon first leapt into international prominence last July. His entry for the AAA six miles at the age of 20 was regarded by many as not only ill-advised but almost impertinent. When he toured round the 24 laps 28 seconds inside the half-hour and broke Dr Frank Aaron's British national record by 1.6 seconds, it was realised that a new star had indeed arisen. At Helsinki Gordon will meet the mighty Czech Emil Zatopek, the reigning Olympic 5,000-metre champion, Pirie is not overawed.





## KIMMINGS TROPHY CHISWICK 1952

Best race of the day was the mile, won by steeple chaser John Disley, London Athletic Club. Recording 4min 14.2sec over the flat he established a ground record and with a 60.2 seconds last lap, beat three-mile record holder Gordon Pirie (South London H.) by six yards with Ralph Dunkley (Poly) third.



## **PIRIE'S RECORD TWO MILES**

### *In 8 Minutes 53 Seconds*

Gordon Pirie, 21-year-old Coulsdon, Surrey, bank clerk, one of Britain's Olympic Games athletes, broke the British all-comers' record by running two miles in 8min. 53sec. in the Vickers' sports at Weybridge, Surrey, on Saturday.

Pirie, who set up new records when he won the A.A.A. six-mile championship at White City, London, last month, was 7.6sec. inside Gundar Haegg's 1945 record.



# PIRIE'S FAST TWO MILES

D. A. G. Pirie (S.L.H.) won the 2 miles in 9 min. 7.4 sec., at an inter-club meeting at Hove, which was won by Walton A.C. with 50 pts. from S. London H. 45 and Shaftesbury H. 22½. Kent A.C. won the junior trophy with 31 pts., with Brighton second with 27 and Walton third with 20. W. T. Paget (Walton) took the mile in 4:18.6, L. C. Lewis (Walton) the 220 in 22.8, K. Wilmshurst (Walton) the long jump with 22ft. 2½in., and P. Goodsell (Walton) the steeplechase in 10.58. S. London won the relay in 3.44 after Lewis dropped the baton when leading for Walton by 25 yards.

## CARSHALTON 1952

Gordon Pirie, British six-mile champion, won a two-mile race on the new track at Carshalton, Surrey, in 9mins. 10secs.—slow time for him.

# Q.P.H. 1½ MILES RACE

Fred Green, of Birchfield, provided a surprise to many when he won the Queens Park Harriers' 1½ miles Invitation track race at Paddington. Green took the lead during the first lap, run in 67.2, but surrendered it to Pirie on the second.

The time at two laps was 2:16.6, three 3:23.2, four 4:33.8, and five 5:40.8. On the back straight of the last lap, Green, closely followed by Paget, shot past Pirie and went on to win in 6:41.0, just outside last year's record.

1. F. Green (Birchfield) ..... 6:41.0  
2. W. Paget (Walton A.C.) ..... 6:41.2  
3. D. A. G. Pirie (S.L.H.) ..... 6:43.8  
4. G. Knight (Essex B.) 6:45.8; 5. H. Hicks (Hampstead H.) 6:52.8; 6. A. Ferguson (Highgate) 67:04.0; 7. J. Hovell (Finchley) 7:13.0.

## A.A.A. v LONDON UNIVERSITY MOTSPUR PARK 1952.

the utter failure of John Parlett, European 800-metres champion and Olympic hope. He ran his 1,500 metres as though he would canter home, leading all the way until the final bend.

### Pirie beats Parlett

Then he weakened, and distance runner Don Pirie, who never before had attempted such a short race, went past him in a flash for an easy victory.

Parlett dropped back to fourth place, making no further effort, though places counted in the match.

He was probably not at his fittest, but he was clearly mastered by Pirie, who had done weeks of training—over 300 miles of it.

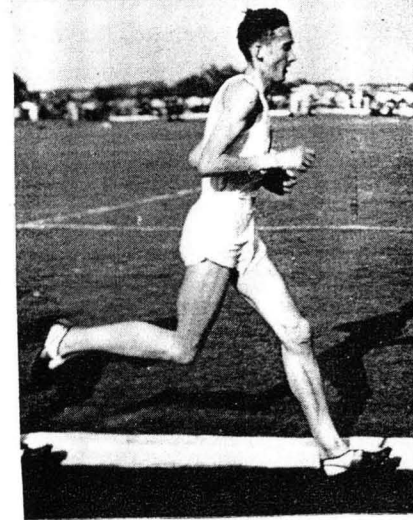
# Surrey 3-mile record clipped by Gordon Pirie

A BRILLIANT three-mile run by Gordon Pirie was the highlight of the Surrey athletic championships at Motspur Park yesterday.

When I spoke to Pirie just before the race he told me that it was far too hot to run fast. Nevertheless, he went out by himself, and, lapping with the regularity of a well-oiled machine, came through with a perfectly timed burst over the last lap, which he covered just inside 70secs., to record 14mins. 7.2secs.

This is a new county record. The record-holder, J. Braughton, was runner-up in 14mins. 28.6secs., which was also inside his own record.

Pirie is in tremendous form, and we may expect something outstanding from him in the A.A.A. six-mile championship next month.



GORDON PIRIE during the 3-mile Surrey Championship

## INTER-COUNTIES 3 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP



BRITISH records tumbled yesterday on the wet but firm track at London's White City during the "News of the World" British Games, which continue to-morrow, and even a world figure was beaten. Then, to highlight the star-studded meeting, at which our runners generally slammed all challengers, came an amazing three miles inter-counties championship, won by Surrey's Gordon Pirie.

Covering the distance in 13min 44.8sec, he not only pulverised the inter-counties record, but beat Sydney Wooderson's wonderful figures of 13min 53.2sec, which stood since 1946 as the British (all comers'), national and English native records.

Pirie made a very slow start for him, but clocked the mile in 4min 33.6sec and two miles in 9min 14.4sec, so nobody expected any record running on these figures.

Yet over the last mile Frank Sando, of Kent, kept forcing Pirie to pile on tremendous pace to keep the lead. This resulted in the third mile being run in 4min 30.4sec, which must be one of the fastest ever in such a race.

Sando, for his small size, ran a really extraordinary race to clock such a phenomenal time as 13min 48sec, which, of course, also beat Sydney Wooderson's record.

Alan Parker looked to be doing badly, yet returned 14min 4sec, and that Essex junior, George Knight, showed 14min 4.8sec, which is truly amazing.

Pirie and Sando now make it three Britishers who have been able to beat 14min for three miles in England.

## Borough of Leyton Floodlit Sports 1952



GORDON PIRIE leading LEN EYRE, FRANK SANDO and W. PAGET, in the 3,000 metres team race at the Leyton Floodlit Meeting.



# INTERNATIONAL 2 MILES RACE 1952



It was hard luck on Pirie that he should have to make what was a personal record attempt in such appalling conditions.

There was practically no part of the track uncovered by water. There was thunder and lightning as Curtis Stone, the American distance man, led the field round the first lap. He was closely followed by Gordon Pirie, and at the end of the second lap, Harry Hicks, of Hampstead, moved into second place.

The Yugoslav Ceraf was content to hold fourth place. But positions at this stage meant very little, in fact there was only about six yards between first and last in a field of seven.

The great advantage of leading the field was that there was no mud coming up from a man in front.

Pirie was plastered with mud from chest to toe, and decided to take the lead on the back straight on the fourth lap.

## Waiting for it

The crowd had been waiting for this and gave him an encouraging cheer.

The time for the first mile was 4min. 40sec., so we soon knew that the conditions had beaten Pirie's record-breaking attempt. Pirie paddled his way past officials and photographer as he went past them at the bell, and opened a tremendous gap on that last lap.

It was a valiant effort, but I am afraid the record time he wanted, under nine minutes, was just beyond his reach.



Two Miles International: 1. D A G Pirie (S. London H.), time 9min 8.6sec; 2. C Stone (U.S.A.), time 9min 16.2sec; 3. W T Paget (Watton A.C.), time 9min 17.6sec; 4. H J Hicks (Hampstead H.); 5. Z Ceraf (Yugoslav); 6. L W Herbert (Belgrave H.).



THUNDERSTORM AND CLOUDBURST prevented D. A. G. Pirie (third from right) from setting up a new British record in the Two Miles International event at the White City, London, at Whitsun.



A FLOODED TRACK.—The conditions under which the two miles international event was run after torrential rain at the White City yesterday may be judged from this picture. The winner, D. A. G. Pirie (Surrey), is seen on the right.



SIX MILES.—1 D A G Pirie (South London H.); 2 F Norris (Bolton U.H.); 3 P D Sando (Aylesford P.M.S.C.); 4 L J Perry (Australia); 5 W Hesketh (Manchester A and C.C.); 6 C M Gray (Small Heath Harriers); abt 20yds; 28min 55.6sec (new British all-comers, British National and English native record).

# A record six miles makes Pirie second fastest in the world

By JAMES STAGG

**R**UNNING with the power and rhythm that is going to shake the world at Helsinki next month, the Gay Gordon, Gordon Pirie, smashed the British all-comers, British National and English Native records for the six miles race, when he retained his title in the Amateur Athletic Association championships which began at the White City, London, last night and continue today.

Pirie, the young bank clerk from Coulsdon (Surrey), knocked 18.2 seconds off the record which was set up by his friendly rival, Walter Hesketh, of Manchester, last year, with a time of 28m. 55.6s.

This wonderful performance brings Gordon to within 24.8s. of the world record held by Viljo Heino, and makes him the second fastest six-miler in the world. Some achievement!

Surprise of the race was the storming run by veteran Frank Norris, of Bolton, who followed Pirie home, 35 yards away, in 29m. 0.6s. Third was Frank Sando, the young Aylesford (Kent) champion, in 29m. 5.2s. They, too, broke the records.

It was a magnificent race. Pirie was content to hold back in the middle of the field until the one and a half mile mark, when he moved up to second place and began a duel with Walter Hesketh which lasted until the three and a half mile mark.

Alternately Pirie and Hesketh were in the lead striving to run each other into the ground.

## He Faded

It was at three and a half miles that Hesketh began to fade, to eventually finish fifth. Sando came up with Pirie and Norris, and from then on Pirie and Norris strengthened their lead until at four and a half miles they were well clear.

With his recent three-mile record to his credit, this latest achievement puts Pirie right up in the Zatopek class.

So ends the first leg of Pirie's ambitious double. Today he goes for the three miles



(Topical Press Photo)

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, Patron of the Amateur Athletic Association, last year honoured the Championships with her gracious presence.

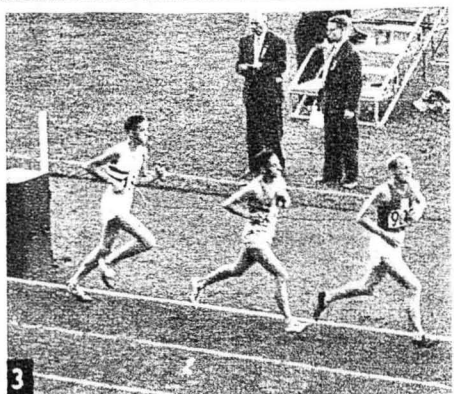
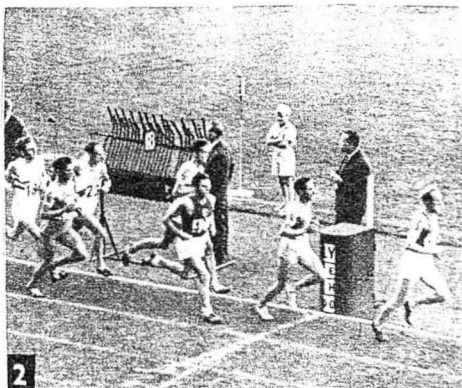
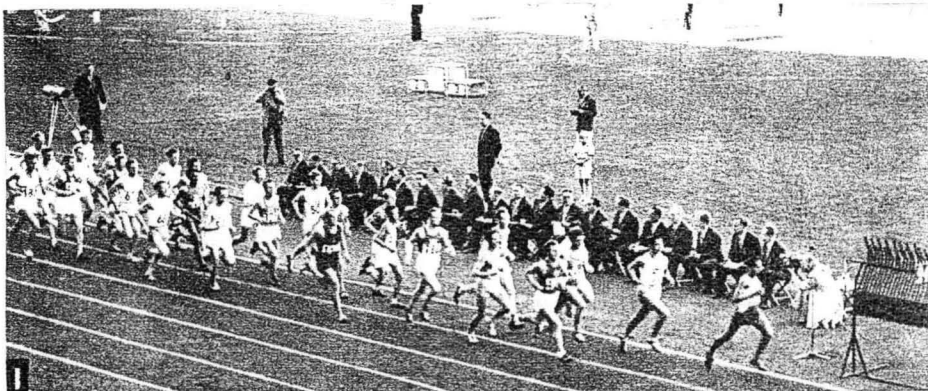


Gordon Pirie leading in the A.A.A. Six Miles from C. M. Gray, W. Hesketh, J. F. Green, F. D. Sando and J. J. Perry (Australia). F. Norris, who finished second to Pirie, is a little further back, No. 20.





10.000 metrin juoksu n. 3.000 metrin vaiheil la. Zatopek johtaa suu tutussa irvistyksessä ja Mimoun on hänen tiuhassa tuntu. massaan. Pirie ja Anufriev ovat hivene



10.000 METRIN JUOKSU HELSINKI

Because the long, lean and cherished the hope, inexhaustible young Surrey bank clerk has been the "twenty-nines" this season because Zatopek has already appeared to take so much out of himself with his rolling ungainly gait, we thought he might by now have burnt himself out.

We bow to him, bow in deepest admiration for a man whose name will go down in the annals of athletics coupled with that of Paavo Nurmi, who yesterday, amid tremendous national enthusiasm, ran into the arena with the torch and lit the sacred flame.

Such must surely be the privilege one day of Emil Zatopek when in a more settled world it is given to Czechoslovakia to organise the Games.

#### DOGGED HIS FOOTSTEPS

What Zatopek actually did was to burn up young Pirie. He can only have been gratified when he discovered early in the race that Pirie's plan was to dog his footsteps. After running a couple of laps in the rear of the field Zatopek improved in the third to ninth place with Pirie tenth. In the fourth lap the two moved up again to eighth and ninth.

Along the back straight in the sixth lap Zatopek spurred to the front with Pirie at his heels, and on the bend Pirie forced his way in front of the remarkable Czech. For a moment the hopes of British spectators were roared to the skies.

Zatopek was swerving from side to side, wagging his head woefully and dropping his left hand to his side every now and then; Pirie was running with classic grace and inspiring ease. Alas! we forgot in our, perhaps, justifiable elation, that that was ever Zatopek's way.

#### SIGNS OF DISTRESS

Still swaying, still hanging his head, still evincing every sign of physical distress, Zatopek kept at it, ever increasing his already wonderful speed for such a long run.

He was soon in front again and hereabouts Mimoun, the Frenchman, made his challenge to be sure of being with the leaders when the field began to spread eagle and the inevitable gap appeared between the pacemakers and the best of the hangers-on. The first of the stragglers was lapped as early as the 10th circuit of the track.

Zatopek, Mimoun and Pirie continued in the fore, a couple of yards separating Mimoun from Zatopek and Pirie from Mimoun until in the thirteenth lap there was a definite gap between Pirie and the fourth, at that time Popov, the Russian.

The margin gradually widened and Pirie, also to our alarm, let a distance elapse between himself and Mimoun. There was now so much lapping taking place that the order became a hopeless confusion.

#### PIRIE TIRING

The only thing clear was that Zatopek and Mimoun were striding it out on their own. Pirie put in another consoling spurt to once more tag the leaders for half a lap but the effort seemed to cost him something.

He was now breathing heavily and puffing his cheeks and the first quite definite signs of the strain the race was imposing on him began to show clearly. He lagged behind again. All this while his team mates Sando, who was able to run despite a sore throat, and Norris had never been out of the first 10.

#### NORRIS PASSES PIRIE

Norris spurred up to pass Pirie, now 50 yards behind the leaders, in an endeavour to spur his colleagues on, but it was no good. Pirie just could not accelerate. Zatopek went from strength to strength and positively waddled his last lap at almost quarter-mile speed.

Mimoun clung to second place, though well beaten at the finish, but Pirie dropped back and could finish only seventh. It was left to the plucky Sando to give Great Britain the consolation of points for fifth place.

10.000 METRES.—Final: E. Zatopek (Czech), 29m 17s. 1. A. Mimoun (Fr.), 32m 28s. 2. A. Anufriev (U.S.S.R.), 48m 28s. 3. H. Posti (Finland), 51m 4s. 4. F. Sando (G.B.), 54m 8s. 5. W. Nyström (Sweden), 54m 54s. 6. D. A. G. Norris (G.B.), 58m 8s.

1952 5.000 METRES

Chataway went straight into the lead from the gun, followed by Schade with Zatopek settling down last but one and Pirie, the other British competitor with a chance, dogging his footsteps as he had done in the 10,000 metres last Monday.

On the second and third laps the order at the head of the field was Schade, Chataway, Reiff the Belgian, and Mimoun. On the fourth lap Zatopek and his shadow, Pirie, began to move up and after five circuits of the track the Czech was fourth with Pirie and A. B. Parker, the third Briton, in the race, running side by side in sixth place.

Zatopek took over the pace-making in the seventh lap and thereafter was hardly ever out of the first four. Mimoun dropped back and a great battle of tactics began between Zatopek, Reiff (who was the holder) and Schade, presumably with the intention of shaking off the persistent young Englishman who resolutely refused to be bamboozled.

Once, when Chataway seemed likely to be forced to go outside his rivals or have his smooth stride upset, young Pirie gave the pace-makers something to think about. He sprinted up from a backward position and swept past the field to take the lead. Chataway followed him and for a moment the Zatopek-Reiff-Schade combination, for such it was beginning to appear, were hoist with their own petard.

Zatopek restored their equilibrium by spurring back into the lead but thereafter was ever fearful of the British challenge he had tried so hard to wreck. Chataway stayed the rest of the race in the challenging position he wanted and was never again out of the closely grouped first four until he fell.

5.000 METRES.—Final: E. Zatopek (Czechoslovakia), 14m 5.6s. 1. A. Mimoun (Fr.), 14m 7.4s. 2. H. Schade (Germany), 14m 8.6s. 3. D. A. G. Pirie (G.B.), 14m 13s. 4. C. J. Chataway (G.B.), 14m 18s. 5. L. Perry (Australia), 14m 25.6s. 6. A. Parker (G.B.), 14m 57s. 11.



DEUXIEME KILOMETRE. — Dans cette course terrible, la sélection se fit rapidement. Schade courir le premier kilomètre en 2' 47", un peu lentement pour lui! De g. à dr.: Schade, Zatopek, Chataway, Mimoun et, légèrement décollés, Pirie, Anoufriev, Taipale.



QUATRIEME KILOMETRE. — Le train s'accélère sous les coups de boutoir de Zatopek et celui-ci, Schade s'apprête à porter une terrible attaque. Reiff commence à souffrir et brusquement, mettant fin à sa carrière. Puis viennent Pirie, Chataway, Mimoun.



TROISIEME KILOMETRE — Le peloton semble regrouper, mais ce n'est qu'un effet d'optique. Zatopek et Reiff, toujours second, Chataway, Schade, Mimoun, Pirie. Viennent ensuite Perry, Taipale, Albertsson, Parker, Anoufriev. La bataille est encore indécise à l'œil le mieux averti.



Englannin suurimmat Pirie'hen



SCHADE continue son effort, toujours suivi par Reiff. Derrière les deux leaders, Zatopek observe



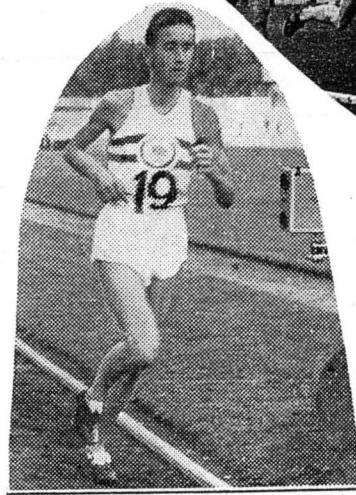
PARIS

1952.



**5,000 METRES.** — Encore une épreuve pour les Britanniques qui contrôlèrent toute la course. En tête, Parker (deuxième en 14'57" 2/10) et Pirie (premier en 14' 51"). Les Français Ab del Krim et Schlegel, semblent déjà en difficulté par le train sévère imposé par les Anglais.

BRITISH VICTORY for both men and women was achieved at the two-day athletics match in Paris last week. Below D. A. G. Pirie is seen leading the field in the 5,000 metres race.



D. A. G. PIRIE winning for Great Britain the 5,000 metres event in the athletics match against France at the Colombes Stadium, Paris. His time was 14min. 51sec.



CHARLOTTEBURG Sports Club  
BERLIN 1952.



Des SC Charlottenburgs Jubiläums-Sportfest war trotz der Absage des luxemburger Barthele ein großartiger Erfolg. Auf der regennassen Bahn wurden hervorragende Zeiten erzielt. So stellte beispielsweise der Münchener Peter Krauß einen neuen deutschen 300-m-Rekord auf. Dieses Berliner Funkbild hält eine Szene vom dramatischen 5000-m-Lauf fest. Der Edlinger Gude, hier noch von dem Engländer Pirie angeführt, lief dem Olympia-Vierten in einem unwiderstehlichen Endspurt einfach davon. Es scheint so, als würde mit Gude ein großes Talent auf der 5000-Meter-Strecke heranreifen. Funkbild: Schirner

BRITISH EMPIRE v UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

White City, 1952.



Charlie Capozzoli, NCAA and IChA cross country champion, shown as he set the U.S. National 3-mile record of 13:51.8 in the British Empire vs. U.S. meet at London, August 4. Doug Pirie and Frank Sando trail. (Courtesy Athletics World)

## Alf Shrubb Comes Home

By JOE BINKS,  
ex-Holder Mile Record

Fifty years ago Alfred Shrubb smashing all the world records of distances from 1½ to 11 miles. To some of the best British figures between three and six miles belong to Gordon Pirie. In each case runners wore the colours of South London Harriers, whose members the conviviality of 10 - morris annual dinner, reserve a special place for these "ancient and modern record-breakers."

Now 75, Shrubb, who was the sensation of his time, is here in Canada.

During his short athletics career from 1901 to 1904, he was four times winner of the A.A.A. 10 and 1 mile championships and twice carried off the A.A.A. mile.

If anyone had the temerity to stick with him for a while, Shrubb would lash out on a fast 200-yard sprint and follow with another necessary. Nobody ever required three such killing doses.

That these bursts did not surprise him, and of Shrubb surprised many, and of more even pace, he would improve his times. A lowered action was Shrubb's peculiar running style.

Over the country he was a star on his own, winning the South and National cross-country championships, as he did so many other races—by a distance.

His running days over, Shrubb coached Oxford athletes for a while and became manager of a hotel before a yearning for Canada drew him across the Atlantic to a successful business career.

Now he is back to shake the hands of South London Harriers' president "Victor Ludorum." Gordon Pirie, who is to be congratulated on the ratification of four records. In British (All-Comers) National English Native categories for 13min 44.8sec for three miles, 28-55.6 for six miles. Four (19-21.2) and five miles (24-9.9) accepted as the best English figures. Because the track was to be 10 inches short, there was recognition of his new times over a half mile and two miles.



Alfred Shrubb, English (National) Champion, 1901-2-3-4, and subsequent World record breaker.

D. A. Gordon Pirie, English (National) Champion, 1953, and subsequent breaker of Shrubb's records.

(Photo taken at the South London Harriers Club Dinner, 27th October, 1952)



# 4m. 8.8s. MILE BY MACMILLAN

## FASTEST IN BRITAIN THIS YEAR

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In the chilly night air at the White City last night under floodlights D. Macmillan, the Australian mile champion, ran the fastest mile of this Olympic year in this country.

He won the City Mile, the principal invitation event at the Financial Times Shield meeting, in 4min 8.8sec, beating John Disley, the steeple-chaser, by 20yds.

The big, fair-haired, long-striding Australian went to the front first time down the back stretch, and was only once headed afterwards, at the end of the second lap, when Disley spurred to the front. He was not there long, Macmillan putting in another spurt down the back stretch, closely challenged now by the Yorkshireman Len Eyre.

The pace, however, was too hot for Eyre, and it was again Disley who was dogging Macmillan at the bell. The time of 3m 8.2s for the three-quarter mile was promising, but Macmillan quickly opened a gap between himself and Disley and he was not pressed. Had he been, Sydney Wooderson's British all-comers record of 4m 6.4sec might have been in danger.

### PIRIE TWICE BEATEN

Eyre was third and D. A. G. Pirie, the long-distance runner, a bad fourth. It was Pirie's second mile of the evening, for he had run for the Banks in the inter-club race, being beaten in a storming finish by J. W. Brown, representing the Civil Service.

Brown's time of 4m 13.4s was encouraging in view of the fact that with Roger Bannister and Nankeville finished for the season he has been nominated first string for Britain against France in next Wednesday's floodlit meeting on this track.

# Pirie Shows Them The Way

Of the many county cross-country championships decided yesterday none was won more impressively than the Surrey race at Richmond Park where British six miles champion Gordon Pirie finished over a quarter of a mile in front of Terry Keegan (Walton) with Chris Chataway, of Olympic fame, third.

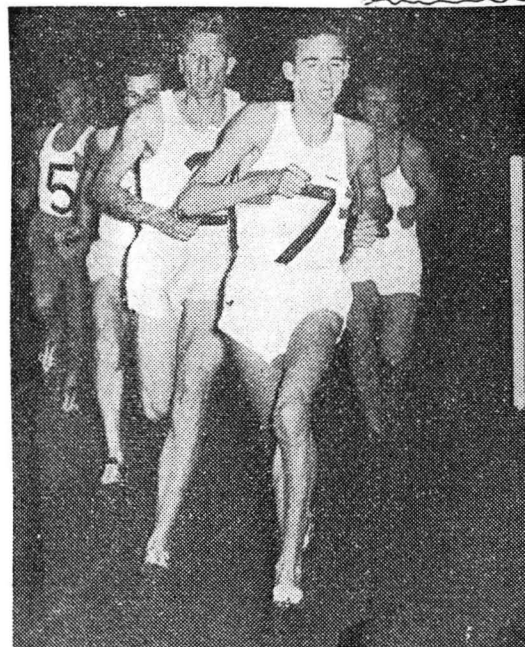
Pirie led after the first quarter of a mile, and the further he went the more he increased the gap. He covered the 7½ miles in 41min 5.4sec, just 1min 37.6sec in front of Keegan.

Pirie also led his team, South London Harriers, home to win with 78 points against Walton's 82 points and Herne Hill's 123.



GORDON PIRIE (No. 10) leading from T. E. KEEGAN (No. 151) just after the start of the Surrey Championship in Richmond Park

## 2,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE



Left, Gordon Pirie leads

The 2,000 metres, a race over nearly five laps which is seldom seen in this country, produced a thrilling finish between the veteran Willi Slikhuis of Holland and D. R. T. Macmillan of Australia. Both were given the same time of 5min. 20.4sec. Pirie was third, with Lamers the German fourth.

## SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS FLOODLIGHT SPORTS 1952

All the men's races caused the onlookers to stand and cheer. One event served a dual purpose. It was the 5,000 metres won after a 300 yards final sprint by the Dutchman, Willi Slikhuis, from Frank Norris (Bolton United), who only a week or two ago broke, along with Gordon Pirie, the British six-mile record.

Pirie was also among the starters for this event, but it had made it known that he would back the British two mile record when he retired when the distance had been covered.

He was 10th in the 5,000 metres, outside Chris Chataway's 15th place, which had been ratified by the meeting of the A.A.A. in Birmingham that afternoon. Not too bad, when one considers the late hour at which the race was run and the chilly conditions.



# INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY

Mezidon, January 11

## "Pirie-Technics!"

Our four English stars, accompanied by Lawrie Richardson, crossed the Channel to have a crack at some of the leading French and Belgian runners. This was one of the landing beaches for the invasion of Europe and, hearing that a memorial was for 40 men of the French resistance movement who died there, our representatives expressed their intention of putting a wreath on it as a small token to their gallantry. Imagine their surprise when the Mayor, Councillors, a high-ranking Army officer and a goodly crowd unexpectedly arrived on the scene for the ceremony.

After a very fast start, Gordon Pirie had surged irresistibly into the lead before a mile had been covered, closely followed by Reiff, Theys and, after a gap of 50 yards, Vandewattyne, Paris, Prat, Hatton, Van Laere and Petitjean. Frank Sando had been left some 300 yards at the start. At half-distance Pirie led from Theys, Reiff had been dropped 70 yards, then Vandewattyne, Prat, Petitjean, Hesketh, Van Laere, Hatton, Louvaisil, Driss, Cerou, Soucours and Furic. Pirie then pulled away 100 yards clear of Theys, Vandewattyne and Prat closed up on Reiff, Hesketh and Petitjean were together and Sando had moved up to 14th place. Coming up to the finish Pirie's lead was slightly reduced, Hesketh easily pulled away from Petitjean and Sando recovered in great style to gain 8th placing.

1, Pirie (E.) 29 mins. 11 secs.; 2, Theys (Bel.) 29:23; 3, Reiff (Bel.) 29:35; 4, Prat (Fr.) 29:38; 5, Vandewattyne (Bel.) 29:40; 6, Hesketh (E.) 30:16; 7, Petitjean (Fr.) 30:23; 8, Sando (E.) 30:26; 9, Van Laere (Bel.) 30:31; 10, Louvaisil (Fr.) 30:32; 11, Cerou (Fr.); 12, Driss (Fr.). Hatton finished 17th.



FLYING RUNNERS leaving London today to join a Paris plane at Northolt were, back row: R. Halton left, F. Sando. Front: Gordon Pirie and W. Hesketh. They will compete in tomorrow's French international cross country race.



FRANK SANDO (right) congratulates Gordon Pirie at the end of the senior race.

## Pirie ahead after duel with Sando in Southern Counties championship

Only six seconds separated them

THAT "a good big 'un always beats a good little 'un" was emphasised in the Southern Counties cross country championships at Aylesford, on Saturday. Gordon Pirie, of South London Harriers, beat his rival Frank Sando, of Aylesford Paper Mills, in a thrilling duel for the senior event.

Not for years have two athletes so completely dominated the large field of runners for Southern Counties' honours.

For over nine of the ten miles, the taller Pirie and his smaller Olympic rival Sando, ran either pace to pace or within a few feet of each other.

Pirie was nearly always to the fore with Sando content to trail the champion and push him to faster speed.

Only in the last quarter of a mile did Pirie take advantage of his slightly longer stride and just that extra touch of stamina to pull further ahead and win in 52.27 seconds.

Sando's time was 52 min. 33 secs.

### SHOOK HANDS

After crossing the winning line, Pirie turned and waited for Sando, shaking hands and patting the Aylesford athlete on the back.

A huge crowd, who had watched their amazing duel, gave both athletes a rousing reception.



Doug Pirie leading the field from Frank Sando to win the Southern Counties cross country championship at Aylesford, Kent.



Nine of the ten testing miles have been run and still Frank Sando clings to the fast-moving heels of Gordon Pirie in the South of England cross-country championship at Aylesford. Half a mile later Pirie bolted into a 10-yard lead and went on to win in 52min. 27sec., with Sando second six seconds behind.





It looks like anybody's race as 473 runners start in the English cross-country championship. But it soon looks different. Gordon Pirie (South London Harriers) shoots straight into the lead and covers the 9½-mile course in 49min. 15sec. And there he is, right, coming home alone—first by more than a quarter-of-a-mile.



## Gordon Pirie celebrates

GORDON PIRIE, winner of the English cross-country championship (9½ miles) at Reading on Saturday celebrated his runaway victory yesterday with—a 15-mile run (writes ROY MOOR).

"You cannot afford to rest up in top-class athletics today," said the 22-year-old Pirie, "especially when you are after Emil Zatopek's world records as I am."

England's team for the international championships in Paris on March 21 will be:

D. A. G. Pirie (S. London), F. Sando (Aylesford), C. Gray (Small Heath), W. Ranger (R.A.F.), W. Boak (Elswick), A. Dalton (Birchfield), D. Holden (Cambridge), J. H. Peters (Essex Beagles capt.), F. Norris (Bolton).

## Pirie Ran Away From The 600 Field

By JOE BINKS,  
Ex-Holder Mile Record

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD Gordon Pirie, South London Harriers, ran the race of his life at Reading in spread-eagling the great field of more than 600 runners and beat his close rival, Frank Sando (Aylesford Paper Mills) by more than a minute over the 9½ miles of the national cross-country championship. It was his first win for he was second last year.

Sando and Bill Gray, the Midlands champion, had a battle royal all the way for second place, Sando winning in the final sprint home.

Gray flashed out at the start with tremendous speed—rather unwisely I thought. But Pirie soon took him on and streaked away. The further he went the further he got away.

The course was hilly, testing the stamina to the full; yet it seemed to be a cinder-track as far as Pirie was concerned. His combination of speed and stamina is immense.

W. Ranger (Royal Air Force) preferred this race to the inter-Services championship—which was being run at the same time—and ran again another marvellous race to finish fourth.

After the race the first nine to finish were invited to represent England in the international event at Vincennes Racecourse, Paris, on March 21.

Peter Driver, like Pirie also of South London, emulated the great deeds of his senior clubmate by spreadeagling the huge field of junior runners. I expected him to win but certainly did not think he could conquer the East Cheshire junior champion, J. Wild by over a minute.

**Seniors.** — D. A. G. Pirie (South London H.) (49min 15sec) 1. F. Sando (Aylesford Paper Mills) (50.22) 2. C. W. Gray (Small Heath H.) (50.24) 3. W. P. Ranger (R.A.F.) (50.39) 4. W. Boak (Elswick) (50.44) 5. A. E. Dalton (Birchfield H.) (50.45) 6. D. H. Holden (Cambridge) (50.47) 7. D. F. Foster (Rotherham) (50.54) 8. J. H. Peters (Essex Beagles) (51.01) 9. D. Walker (Sheffield Utd. H.) (51.13) 10. F. Norris (Bolton) (51.17) 11. E. L. Hardie (Manchester) (51.17) 12.



Déjà après le premier kilomètre le peloton des leaders s'est formé. Pirie (1) mène devant Theys (15) et Van de Wattyne (16). Abdallah est dans sa foulée, suivi, sur sa gauche, de Mihalic. L'Anglais, grand favori, rétrogradera vers le sixième kilomètre.

## PIRIE FINISHES 19th IN BARE FEET

By A Special Correspondent

Despite the eclipse of D. A. G. Pirie, warm favourite to win the individual title, England gained a comfortable cross-country victory at Vincennes racecourse in Paris on Saturday.

With three men in the first six England, with 64 points, had a margin of 20 over the holders, France, Jugoslavia taking third place with 129 and Scotland doing well to finish fifth of the 10 teams.

On a travesty of a cross-country course, nine miles of loose cinders brick-hard grassland and pebbly pathways, the English team found the artificial obstacles difficult to negotiate.

Pirie was with the leaders for five miles, but then, suffering from sore feet, he dropped back, removed his shoes and continued bare-footed, to finish 19th.

With half a mile to go Mihalic (Jugoslavia), who throughout had shown fine judgment, came away to win from Frank Sando (England) by 40 yards in 47min 53sec. Abdallah (France) was third, Bannon (Scotland) fourth, and Norris and Gray (England) fifth.



Avant le deuxième kilomètre, le peloton de tête franchit la deuxième haie : Theys (15), Pirie (1), Van de Wattyne (16), Abdallah (60), Prat (61), Mihalic (135), Bannon (30).





Left—  
Gordon Pirie (S. London H.) in the lead, with Alex Olney (Thames Valley H.) on his heels during the long 7th stage in the London-Brighton Relay. J. Bromley (Belgrave), J. H. Wood (Poly) and R. Reid (Birchfield) can be seen 80 yards behind.



Right—  
At the end of the seventh stage, Alex Olney was still on Pirie's heels, both having broken the record for this stage with a time of 20mins. 5secs.

**THAMES VALLEY HARRIERS.** combining superb running with clever team work, won the third national London-Brighton road relay promoted by the "News of the World." Their time of 3hr 52min 16sec for the 45½ miles, run over 10 stages, was outside the course record, but is the fastest time returned for the national event.

Birchfield and South London, who finished second and third respectively, were also inside the previous best for this event, which consists of 20 teams from all over Britain who have qualified in regional races.

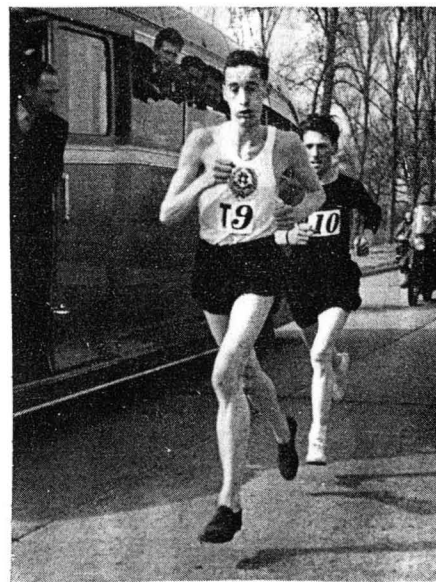
Undoubtedly the highlight was the terrific duel over the seventh stage of six miles from Crawley to Handcross, between Alec Olney (Thames Valley) and Gordon Pirie (South London).

They took over practically together and then fought out yard for yard all the long hard way, cutting down their rivals one after the other.

Showing real Olympic form they were both credited with the same time of 29min 5sec, which was 13 seconds better than the record set up by Jim Peters (Essex Beagles) last October. Peters taking the same stage yesterday showed 29min 28sec.

Earlier over the fourth relay Birchfield's international Ted Dalton had set up a new record with 25min 43sec for the five miles, which took Birchfield into third place, and that grand junior champion Peter Driver (South London) was 7sec inside the old record and only 3sec short of Dalton's figures.

In a race that was one of the most exciting on record we saw much great running particularly from such well known performers as Frank Sando (Aylesford) and Poly-



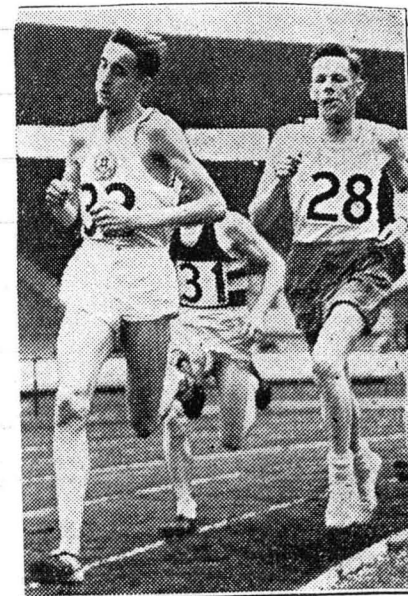
D. A. G. Pirie (S.L.H.) being dogged by H. A. Olney (T.V.H.) during their record run over the 7th relay

# PIRIE'S GREAT SIX MILES

Pirie ran a truly great six miles in a field of 36 runners to win the Southern title in 28min. 47.4sec.—a time which beat the Empire, British, and English records, but still failed by 16.8sec. to equal the world figures set up by Heino, the Finn.

Almost certainly Pirie could have shortened his time if the field had been smaller and the competition more severe. Only Peters, the marathon record holder, himself a former six miles champion, seriously pressed Pirie, and even Peters was easily shaken off about halfway and finally beaten by nearly 100 yards. The rest of the field was either lapped or double-lapped. The ease with which Pirie either left or strode past his opponents was most impressive. Peters, it should be added, ran the six miles in a faster time than when he won his title some few years ago. The conditions no doubt were fairly good for running, firm enough underfoot but decidedly breezy. Pirie, of course, had been doing a good deal of cross-country running recently and so was fit for a major effort, even so early in the season.

Pirie's times for each mile were:  
4min. 42.4sec., 4min. 47.6sec., 4min. 45.8sec.,  
4min. 48.2sec., 4min. 52.2sec., and  
4min. 51.2sec.



D. A. G. Pirie leading in the Southern six-miles championship at the White City

## Pirie 2nd in great race

By ROY MOOR

**GORDON PIRIE**, the young Coulsdon bank clerk who has been chopping chunks off records since the track season opened, was in yet another race thriller yesterday.

This time he was beaten... but not until he had forced spectators out of their seats with the excitement that gripped his great finishing tussle with world record-holder Gaston Reiff (Belgium) in the 3,000 metres international event at Tourcoing, France.

Reiff won in 8 minutes 19.8 seconds with Pirie coming through almost on the Belgian's heels in 8 minutes 21.4 seconds, the fastest-ever run for the distance by a Briton.

Pirie, unhappy with the sluggish pace of the first lap, took over the lead in the next and kept it until two laps from home, when Reiff and Alain Mimoun (France) spurted ahead.

### Well-timed

The tall, slim South London Harrier went after them. He caught Mimoun, twice runner-up to Zatopek in Olympic finals last year, and then tore still faster in chase of the Belgian.

Reiff, however, had timed his finish well; though tiring, he had just enough strength to keep ahead of the fast-gaining Pirie.

3,000 METRES International Race  
Tourcoing (France) 1953



Gaston Reiff s'envole; il laisse sur place Pirie et Mimoun. L'allure du champion belge est magnifique.



## PIRIE'S FINE 3 MILES AT WHITE CITY

### SURREY FACE HARD TASK TO-DAY

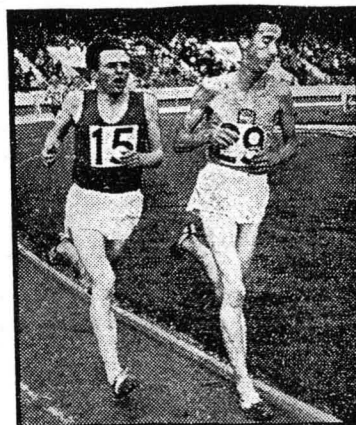
BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
If the opening day's programme of the News of the World sponsored British Games at the White City on Saturday scarcely fulfilled the expectations of the 20,000 people present it certainly was not the fault of the home athletes who took part in the Counties Athletic Union Championships.

The four special international events—involving athletes from France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark—proved far less exciting than the county races; even the mile disclosed the relative weakness of the Continental opposition rather than R. G. Bannister's excellence.

But it was the inter-county three miles, won by Gordon Pirie, which provided the highlight of the afternoon.

W. Hesketh set the pace for a couple of laps before Pirie went out in front, but F. Sando stuck to him like a leech, and for lap after lap, well ahead of the rest, this pair of young runners sped along.

Not until 400 yards from the finish was Pirie able to gain any real advantage, and even then Sando was by no means finished. But Pirie eventually drew away to win in the excellent time of 13min 46sec—only 1.2sec outside his British record. Sando was two seconds slower in running his fastest three miles to date.



PIRIE (RIGHT) and Sando battling out the three miles at the White City on Saturday.



**GORDON PIRIE**, the long, lean Surrey bank clerk, whose near-record three miles brightened the first day of the British Games, did a five-mile training run yesterday in preparation for the great international two-mile race at the White City, London, today.

After his magnificent 13m. 46s. effort, he would have liked to run a few more laps round the track, to, in his own words, "warm down." True, he had jogged on for 200 yards beyond the tape... but that wasn't much good to a man who thinks in miles instead of yards. So he trotted round the stadium under

the stands before returning to the dressing room.

Pirie was entitled to feel a little disappointed that he had so narrowly missed breaking his own British record of 13m. 44.8s. Four things prevented it. First Pirie had to shout to officials asking to be informed of the intermediate times so that he could assess his record prospects.

### Sando's Challenge Fades Away

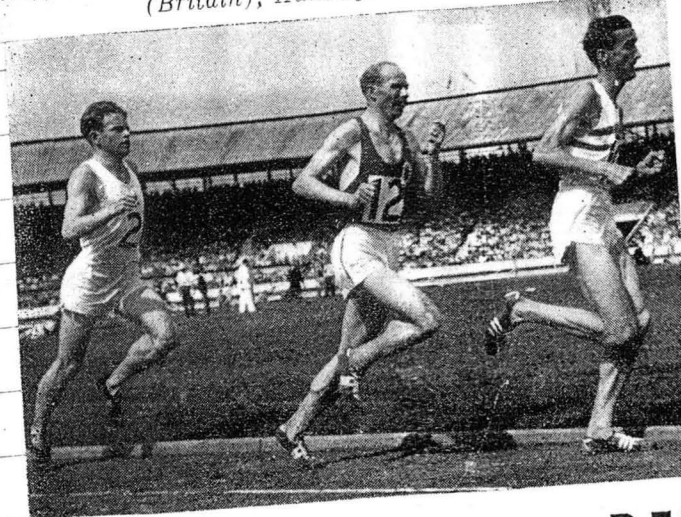
Then, the gallant Frank Sando could not quite sustain his shoulder to shoulder challenge into the final lap.

Pirie then had to run on the outside of two or three stragglers in the finishing straight.

Finally, he almost collided with an official nipping across the track between the also-rans to hold the tape.

## Start ↓ FOR 2-MILE RACE

There they go at the start of the two-mile international race at White City... (left to right) Weeks-Pearson, Green (Britain), Seeuwen (Holland), Mimoun (France), Reiff (Belgium), Pianck (Denmark), Morgan, Parmenter, Chataway (Britain), Hanswyck (Belgium), Pirie (Britain)....



**GORDON PIRIE** leading from **GASTON REIFF** (Belgium) and **C. J. CHATAWAY** in the British Games two miles race in which Chataway set up new British and English Native records with 8min. 49.6sec.



And here is red-headed Chris Chataway winning the event by 35 yards.

## REIFF QUILTS AGAINST CHATAWAY

By H. J. OATEN

**BRITISH** athletics scored a tremendous triumph at White City this afternoon. It was all thanks to Chris Chataway and Gordon Pirie, who between them ran the strongest of foreign opposition clean into the ground in a two-miles race in which Chataway, the winner, broke his own British all-comers record by no fewer than six seconds.

The most astounding feature of the race, however, was that in the field was the world record holder for the distance, Gaston Reiff, of Belgium, and the double silver medalist at the Helsinki Olympics, Alain Mimoun, of France.

Mimoun was quickly dropped by the two British boys, and with a lap to go Reiff had had enough and ran off the track. Gordon Pirie, who led in this race until Chataway started his finishing burst 100 yards from the tape, did his own best time ever, equalling Chataway's old British record of 8min. 55.6sec.

### Pirie's Part

Chataway's performance was little short of miraculous. His time has only been beaten by two other men in the world and one of those, Reiff, he was running against today. He always seemed to have the race well in hand, lying handily in third place while Pirie and Reiff fought out the issue for lap after lap.

There was no doubt whatever about the result when Chataway unleashed his tremendous finishing burst. Pirie just had no answer.

Nevertheless, he had played his part nobly in this British triumph as a pace-setter. Indeed, the speed at the beginning of the race was fantastic, the first three-quarters of a mile being covered in faster time than Bannister did for his mile on Saturday.

Pirie's time at 1½ miles, 6min. 55.8sec., was a new English native record. It was astonishing to see the way in which Chataway finished. He flashed past Pirie like a sprinter, almost before one could realise it. Coming round the bend into the straight, he looked back to see where Pirie was and as he



Two great international rivals, **GORDON PIRIE** (6 miles World record-holder) and **GASTON REIFF** (2 miles World record-holder) in the British Games 2 miles race, Whitsuntide, 1953.



PRIDE OF PLACE  
AGAIN GOES TO  
**GORDON  
PIRIE**

FOR HIS MAGNIFICENT  
**3 MILES**  
BRITISH ALL-COMERS  
RECORD ON SATURDAY

A small  
deficit of  
9.4 secs.  
to be  
made up

WORKING IN A BANK  
HE IS USED TO FIGURES  
BUT HIS 13 MINS. 41.8 SECS.  
DOES HIM REAL CREDIT!

ONLY ONE OTHER MAN'S  
**BALANCE IS BETTER—**  
GUNDAR HAEGG'S WORLD RECORD 13 MINS. 32.4 SECS.

PIRIE RUNS  
OVER 100 MILES  
A WEEK IN  
TRAINING, SO  
IF HE HAS A  
NIGHT OUT AT  
THE PICTURES  
HE MUST SPEND  
HIS TIME RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE GANGWAY

These  
3D  
Films  
ARE  
good!

## PIRIE MAKES IT A HABIT!

By CYRIL FOSTER

**YET** again 22-year-old Gordon Pirie has smashed the British all-comers three-mile record in winning the South of England title at the White City yesterday, he turned in a time of 13 minutes 41.8 seconds which took another three seconds off the British best he set up on the same track a year ago.

Pirie was so fresh after the race—that he wasn't even panting—that I am convinced he can beat Gundar Haegg's world record, which is only 9.4sec. faster.

Seven minutes before his race Pirie had half an hour's non-stop running round the streets adjoining the stadium to get warmed up!

The young Coulsdon bank clerk made all his own running in the race until the last mile, when he started lapping the field. Then he used his opponents as pace-makers, overhauling them as fast as he could in his bid to set up the new British figures.

His mile time was 4min. 28sec., and for two miles 9min. 7sec. "I was agreeably surprised the race was so fast," said Pirie. "It didn't seem like it as I ran."

Pirie had well over half a lap to spare from the second man, J. Braughton, of Blackheath, who clocked 14min. 23.8sec.

Olympic runner Frank Sando missed the three miles race to concentrate on the mile. If not quite so convincing as Pirie, Sando none the less put up a good performance, winning in 4min. 16.2sec.



GORDON PIRIE

No less praiseworthy was Gordon Pirie's British and Empire record-breaking 3 miles run of 13min. 41.8sec. in the South of England championships at White City. He has to be only 9.4sec. faster to equal the world record made by Gundar Haegg, of Sweden, in 1942.

### His target

Pirie is confident he can be faster than on Saturday. His immediate target is the six miles national championship at the White City three weeks hence.



**THE MAYOR OF CROYDON**, Ald. S. A. Maycock, met Gordon Pirie, of Coulsdon, the new world six mile record holder, at the opening of the Albert Road sports arena on Wednesday. Here is the Mayor presenting Pirie with the Sir Harry Barclay trophy, which he has been awarded in recognition of his 13-min. 54.2-sec. three mile run in the Surrey championships. His was the best senior performance.

### SURREY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Among several notable performances in the Surrey County senior championships meeting at Motspur Park on Saturday the three miles by D. A. G. Pirie (South London H.) in 13min. 54.2sec. was exceptional. Pirie made his own pace from the first lap, and his time lowered the county record, made by himself last year, by no less than 13sec.

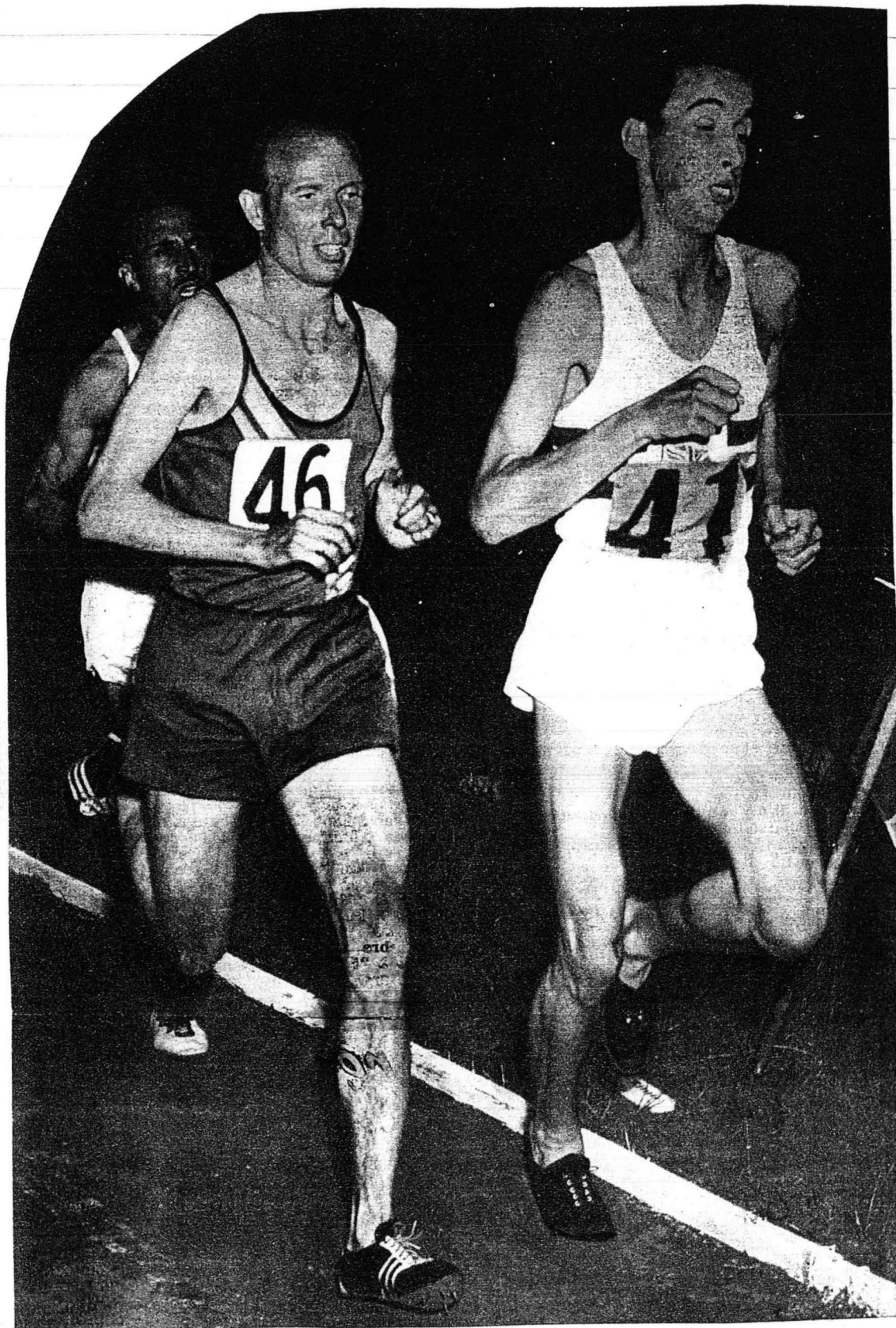
The outstanding event was the One Mile, in which D. A. G. Pirie, who had to contend with an even gustier wind than Bannister experienced over a lap less, did well to win by a distance in 4min. 18.6sec. Pirie had a faster mile than that to his credit, but, as evidence of what he is likely to do over the longer distances in the near future, Saturday's race provided another study in modern training methods. Pirie, to be sure, unlike Bannister, was scoring some highly useful points for his club, the South London Harriers.

In the Two Miles D. A. G. Pirie proved in a class of his own, winning by fully 150 yards in the English native record time of 8min. 56sec.

Pirie's mile time was very fast—4min 21sec. At 1½ miles in 6min 39sec he put up a new British record for the distance and finished the two

D. A. G. Pirie, A.A.A. six miles champion, won the South London H. six miles club championship at Battersea Park, in 30min 6.8sec, defeating his brother Peter, with J. Lyne third.





Le 5.000 : Pirie, dont le visage est contracté, est toujours en tête avec Gaston Reiff et Alain Mimoun, qui suit aisément en observant ses rivaux. Le Belge Theys, victime d'une chute, a été dé cramponné peu avant.



Mercredi soir, à Bruxelles, s'est déroulé un très grand 5.000 mètres que notre recordman Alain Mimoun a enlevé dans l'excellent temps de 14' 8" 4/10. Après 600 m. de course, le long Britannique Pirie mène devant Mimoun, Theys et Reiff.

## Pirie 3rd in great race

From a Special Correspondent

BRUSSELS, Wednesday.  
GORDON PIRIE, British record-holder, was beaten into third place in one of the most gripping 5,000 metres races ever run in Belgium.

For 4,000 metres Pirie set a tremendous pace. Then he was challenged for the lead by Gaston Reiff.

Pirie refused to give way to the Belgian champion, but a lap later Reiff challenged again and got the lead to open a gap of nearly 40 yards. The Coulsdon bank clerk chased him hard. And so did Alain Mimoun, of France.

### Three victories

The Frenchman caught Reiff on the last lap and a furlong from home went pell-mell into the lead.

He was hotly pursued by both Reiff and Pirie, but there was no catching Mimoun in this tremendous form, and he returned Europe's fastest time for the distance this season—14min. 8.4sec.

Reiff took second place with 14-15.6 and Pirie 14-18.8.



Après l'arrivée, Mimoun donne l'accolade à Gordon Pirie, qui a contribué à la réussite d'un bel exploit.



# Gordon Pirie smashes world record

By ROY MOOR

GORDON PIRIE, the 22-year-old Coulsdon bank clerk, last night achieved his greatest ambition—to join the world record-holders for track running.

In winning the six miles at the A.A.A. national championships at the White City, London, he clocked the fantastic time of 28min. 19.4sec.

That was 11.4 seconds, or the equivalent of over 50 yards faster than has ever been run in the world before.

When Pirie went to the starting point for his race the world record stood at 28min. 30.8sec. to the Finn, Viljo Heino.

It was soon evident that these figures were not likely to survive the night as Pirie tore into action.

Right from the gun he raced into the lead. Frank Sando took it from him at 300 yards, but soon it was Pirie in front again.

## Merciless pace

He reached the first mile in 4min. 42.2sec. with only Ian Binnie of Scotland near to worry him.

Binnie put in some useful work on Pirie's behalf over the next two miles for the keenness of the Scot to fight a way in front took Pirie past the two miles in 9min. 19.8sec. and the three miles in 14min. 2.6sec.

The latter time is only 10sec. slower than Sydney Wooderson's championship record for three miles.

Binnie found he could not continue at such a merciless pace. By this time, however, Pirie was lapping the field and therefore able to use his opponents as pace-makers.

Tearing past the four miles for an English native record of 18min. 45.2sec. and also for a five miles native record of 23min. 34.2sec. Pirie had only to maintain the pace to be certain of clipping Heino's figures.

But Pirie, aware of his nearness to the record, was not content to just beat it; he wanted to smash it completely with a time that could defy challenge.

So he stepped up his pace even faster over the last 300 yards, to record a time that must make even the great Emil Zatopek blink with surprise.

It was Pirie's wish to continue another 375 yards in the hope of beating Zatopek's world record for 10,000 metres, but championship regulations would not permit.

## Now for 3 miles

It is calculated on this running that Pirie would have been timed around 29 minutes 19 seconds for 10,000 metres, against Zatopek's world's best of 29min. 2.6sec.

"I am tremendously thrilled at having got a world record at last," said Pirie, not the least distressed after his exertion. "I always knew those figures of Heino's could be beaten. I shall be out to see what I can do in the three miles tomorrow."

Pirie won by nearly three-quarters of a lap from Sando, who also beat the previous British record for the distance with a time of 28min. 47.2sec. Binnie, third in 28min. 53.4 sec., too, beat the championship best made by Pirie only a year ago.



"Perfect," says Sir Adolphe Abrahams as he tests Gordon Pirie's pulse rate after last night's world record six miles race at the White City.



Gordon Pirie, taking a rest at his Coulsdon home yesterday.



Gordon Pirie breaks the tape after his record smashing six miles last night.

SIX MILES.—FINAL: 1. D. Pirie (S. London) (holder); 2. F. Sando (Aylesford Paper Mills); 3. I. Binnie (Victoria Pk. Glasgow); 4. J. Peters (Essex Beagles); 5. W. Hesketh (Manchester); 6. C. Gray (Small Heath). 28min. 19.4sec. World British all-comers, British National, English native and championship records.



Two studies from the White City—Gordon Pirie puffed cheeks, winning the three miles (right) stylishly throwing the

# AND NOW PIRIE MAKES HISTORY

By JOE BINKS, ex-Holder Mile Record

FOLLOWING his world figures for six miles the previous day Gordon Pirie completed a "double" at the A.A.A. Championships at the White City, London, when he won the three miles in 13min 43.4sec, a championship record.

This three and six mile double has never been gained before in the history of the meeting.

Birchfield's Freddie Green, who finished second in 13-46.0, also broke the old championship best—13-53.2 set up by Sydney Wooderson seven years ago.

When he finished—with a badly blistered big toe on his left foot, a legacy of his six-mile run—the remarkable Pirie said confidently: "I think I'll get the world record this season. The blister caused me great agony."

From the start Pirie crowded on tremendous pace. Soon he took the lead and ran the first mile in 4min 23.4sec and the second in 9-5.0—fantastic running.

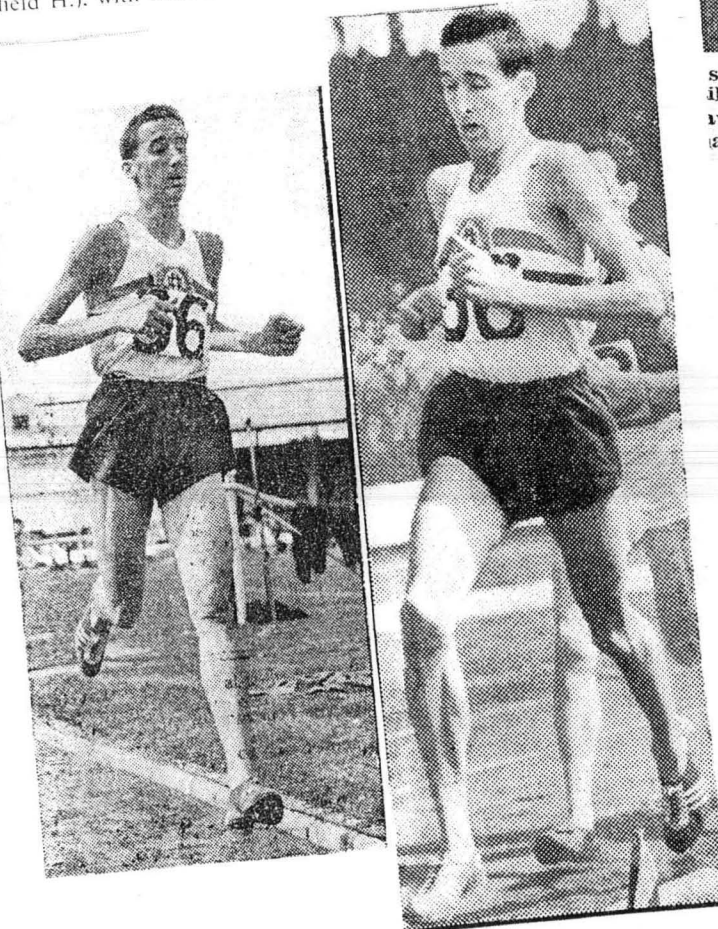
Only Freddie Green was with him now, and with two laps to go Green tried to pass him. Pirie revelled in this and piled on more amazing pace, drawing right away to win easily, but he did look tired.

His time was inside the present British record although he has his Southern A.A.A. figures of 13min 41.8sec in June awaiting ratification. Such running in a boisterous wind a matter of hours after his six miles effort is something I can hardly understand.

Freddie Gagen ran the best race of his life, and the next four, Eyre 14-2.0, Binnie 14-2.3, Ranger 14-8.0, and Maynard 14-8.8, represent splendid running for Britishers.



GORDON PIRIE (South London H.) leading in the 3 miles from FRED GREEN (Birchfield H.), with LEN EYRE running third.



Gordon Pirie





# Galloping Gordon just puff puffs to more records



GORDON PIRIE  
He doesn't look  
athletic, but...

DOUGLAS ALISTAIR GORDON PIRIE divides his time between totting up figures at a Coulsdon, Surrey, bank and shattering record figures on the running track.

On Saturday he added to his record round-up his latest collector's piece, a four minutes 11 seconds mile—a new low for the Inter-Banks Championship.

At twenty-two he cannot remember his record total without looking at his log book. And, dash the fellow, he was not even out of breath after this newest pace piece.

He had a jolly sight more breath than I had after he had earnestly announced that he intended to break the world three-mile record at White City, London, on August 1.

Oh! And as a warm-up he will take in the Irish four-mile record next Friday.

## PEERLESS

This sounds a brash, cocksure conversation until you appreciate the earnestness of this peerless Pirie. He was just being factual.

Before he shrank the six-mile world record down to 28mins. 19.4secs. earlier this month, Galloping Gordon said he would do that very thing.

He is so sincere, this 6ft. 2ins., restless runner, who weighs in at 9st. 12lb. and in training can lose 4lb. in one spell.

In fact he looks distinctly unathletic. But there is something compelling about those bright, bird-like eyes and the tight line of his mouth.

To me he will always be Puff-Puff Pirie, with his weird system of blowing his cheeks out like a cornet player for every breath. Pirie says it has something to do with easier breathing.

That is typical of Pirie, the Scot who was born in Leeds. He can analyse everything he does, almost like Pirie the runner being probed by Pirie the scientist.

Hair was too long, he decided. Had a crew cut. British track shoes with their six spikes checked his track-caressing stride. Has just rebuilt his shoes on the German plan of four spikes.

## TOUGHER STILL

Reckoned the training schedule from German Olympic coach Waldemar Gerschler lacked the ruthless drill that wrings records out of faltering, protesting bodies. Worked out a more gruelling programme.

The Pirie pin-up picture shows the Olympic victory finish of Emil Zatopek, a face full of agony telling the stark, frightening story of a man at the final pitch of exhaustion.

Said Pirie: Just look! You have to give everything and find a little more. Isn't it lovely? I could only shudder.

Then Pirie, who dreams only of running faster and further than anyone on earth, loped off to prepare for more and more records.

At home Pirie is not just a tough trackman. His mother knows him as a cheerful lad who can relax plenty, eat plenty, and just loves to sleep.



## PIRIE'S PERSONAL MILE RECORD

At Motspur Park yesterday Gordon Pirie broke another record—his personal one-mile record. In the Inter-Banks meeting, he returned 4min. 11sec. against his previous best of 4min. 15.8sec.

## NEW IRISH FOUR MILES RECORD

# Heavy Ground Foiled Pirie's World Bid

By W. P. MURPHY

A ROUND and around the College Park yesterday went the slim figure of D. A. G. Pirie, England's greatest long distance runner, stepping his way into Irish athletic history as he reduced the all-comers figures for four miles by three and three-tenth seconds.

For ten minutes the crowd of approximately 4,000 who turned up for Donore Harriers' Diamond Jubilee meeting had visions of a world record as 9 mins. 17 secs. went up for two miles. Alas, that downpour, which had caused the abandonment of Friday's meeting, was having its inevitable effect, and the sodden track proved too much for Pirie, whose legs were dead at the finish of a gallant attempt.

His time of 18 mins. 57 secs. beat Fred Green's Irish record by 3.3.10 secs., but he himself was the least satisfied man after trying so hard for the world record only to be beaten by the elements.

A beautiful stylist, this slim, compactly built bank clerk brings to the track the ease and grace of genius, but few who watch him realise the rhythm, stamina, and grace is the result of two hours a day intense practice.

Irish three miles champion D. Harrison of Belfast ran exceptionally well to be second, a lap behind the winner after Greer, who had made the early running, had dropped out of the lead at the end of two miles.

## O'REILLY'S FINE JUMP

It was rather a pity that Pirie's effort should have completely overshadowed the jumping of B. M. O'Reilly who topped 6 ft. 3½ ins., one of the outstanding feats of the day.

The Lloyd's Bank relay team ran a great mile for after their first "leg" had finished last of four, the other three were good enough to make up the leeway and score a highly popular victory.

In cycling on a very difficult track the palm went to J. McQuade, who won the Three Miles Championship of Ireland with a perfectly judged effort which carried him to the front at the one place it counted; to win by half a length from J. J. McCormack.

## EVENTS IN DETAIL

Four Miles Invitation Scratch—D. A. G. Pirie (Lloyds Bank A.C. and Stn London Hrs.), 1; D. Harrison (9th Old Boys, Belfast), 2; S. Kennelly (Donore Hrs.), 3 18 mins., 57 secs. (Irish record).



RECORD-BREAKER—D. A. G. Pirie (Lloyds' Bank and South London Harriers) striding out during the four miles race at Donore Harriers' Sports at College Park.

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avi-  
hatt





Is not known by his first two Christian names, Douglas Alastair.

Was born in Leeds in 1931.

Is a six-footer with brown eyes and hair.

Is a world record-breaker.

Has been called "brash" and "cocksure."

Served in the R.A.F., lives in Surrey.

## Britain's Fakir of the Track by Neil Allen.

In the future when some writer is attempting to record the history of track and field one of the names which he will consider including among the immortals of our sport may well be that of Gordon Pirie. It may be that by then his claim to fame will be two-fold. Not only as a breaker of records but as a breaker of traditions. For, to the athletes of Britain, the novel aspects of Pirie's training and style are as intriguing as his brilliant performances. It is gradually being realised that here is someone with a different approach to success in running. What this approach is, has not as yet been clearly defined. To find out, the writer went down to Tooting Bec track on a clear Sunday morning recently.

Pirie arrived at 10.30 and after a short talk with Lennart Strandberg, co-holder of the European 100 metres record who was on a Press visit to England, got ready for the morning's work. Over a running vest and shorts he wore a white sweater, a green water-proof German wind-jacket and track-suit trousers. On his feet he had woollen socks & a pair of thick-soled Canadian gym shoes. Then we went out for his warm-up on Tooting Common. This consists of an hour of slow running over grass and gravel interspersed by an occasional fifty yards of faster tempo by the arms and legs. But even during these "pattering bursts" we were never travelling faster than the speed of a 70 sec. 440. The elbows were kept in close against the sides & the arms moving across the chest thus tending to produce the characteristic head-roll.

Gordon explained that in his opinion one of the major faults of many distance runners was a proneness to bound too high into the air and to let their arms go too far forward, wasting energy. His much more compact style (he cited the fast-stepping, bustling Freddie Green - 13:46.0, 8:53.0, 4:08.8 - as a good example of economic running) resulted in no waste in knee lift and in the whole of the body being under very close control, ready at any moment for a tactical burst. My mind went back to the shuffling little Algerian Alain Mimoun padding round the White City track to win the 6 miles so easily against Britain.

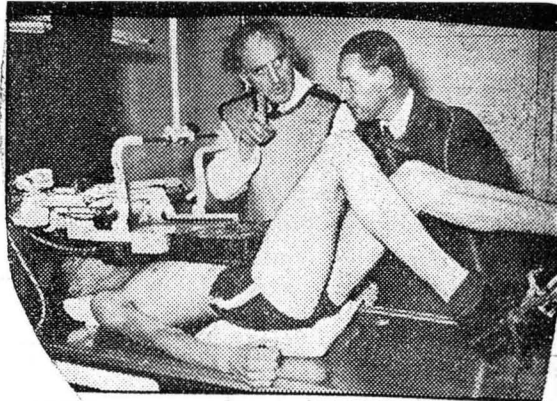
While we ran Pirie talked of the things he has learnt in the 12 years that he has been running. He had learnt much about the value of a long, steady warm-up from Mimoun while Willem Slykhuys (3:43.8, 8:08.8, 14:14.0) had first suggested the idea of short pattering bursts. Coach Woldemar Gerschler had felt that anything less than an hour of warming-up was insufficient to accustom the heart to running long distances. Before the Birchfield 4 miles record the warm-up had been for 65 minutes.

I noticed a ruthless adherence to a fixed timetable. We had left the dressing-room at 10.48. We arrived back at 11.40 but in order to accomplish the full hour's warm-up jogged round for a further eight minutes. The next move was to the track where, after some more jogging sweat clothes were discarded & spikes put on. The schedule for the day: 4 x 1200 metres or rather 4 x 3/4 mile at about 3:20.0-3:22.0 speed with 12 minutes jogging in between, wearing a sweater. Though he had only got home the night before at 1.30 after being guest of honour at Middlesex Ladies A.C. dinner, Gordon found he could manage six time trials. He usually finds he can do a little more than Gerschler's programme which really represents the minimum work he allows himself to do. Below I list the results of his six runs. The 4th was partially spoilt by the fact that he was given the wrong lap time.

Lap.	1st trial	2nd trial	3rd trial	4th trial	5th trial	6th trial
1	60.8	63.8	66.0	65.1	66.5	67.0
2	67.0	67.0	67.8	68.0	68.5	68.8
3	65.9	69.1	65.0	67.4	68.0	67.7
Total	3:13.7	3:19.9	3:18.8	3:20.5	3:22.0	3:24.5

Pirie felt tired at the start, picked up on the 3rd trial but said his legs felt numb on the 5th. His very first lap was a most impressive example of an irrepressible joie de vivre. At the end of the 6th trial he finished strongly & then jogged a lap in bare feet on the grass, revelling in this comparative comfort. We jogged for another fifteen minutes until the Tooting clock read 1.48. The required three hours were over.

Gordon went straight over to the snack bar where he drank a pint & a half of milk laced with 2 half pint bottles of pineapple juice. Then back to the changing-room for a long drink of water & shower. Pirie would occasionally exclaim "Here's another



"The strongest heart I've found in a sportsman," declares Dr. Hans Reindell, German researcher.



THE INFERNAL TRIANGLE. Left to Right: Woldemar Gerschler, Gordon Pirie and Dr. H. Reindell whose treadmill was pounded to insensibility. "Good training exercise", & proceed to describe something resembling a medieval torture. For instance he would walk over to a piece of sloping ground & balance on one leg with only the cushion of the foot under the toes. He would then hop four hundred times on each leg (reminiscent of the great Tajima - 52' 5 1/2" - who is believed to have indulged in sessions of a thousands skips to prepare himself for triple jumping. Ed.). Another favourite Pirie exercise in 1952, (he has stopped weight-training now) was to carry 70lbs on his back & in the full knee position do 200 jumps. As a result of this type of repetitive exercising, Pirie's stomach is as hard as if a flat teak board were lying just under the skin.

Last year a typical workout might consist 100x100 (flat out), or 40x220 (32 sec. average), 40x 440 (67 sec. speed) or 10x350 (speed of a 62secs. 440). Under Gerschler he has tended to substitute half a dozen runs over longer distances (say 6x1500 metres) for the repetition of short sprint distances. "Last year", says Gordon, "I was training so hard that I didn't allow myself enough consideration for racing. As a result I didn't run very well in the Olympics. But now this long-term policy is beginning to pay. This year my whole session lasts so much longer that I go to bed at about 10 p.m. - half an hour later than in 1952. I get home between 5.30 & 6.00 & then run for 3 hours before eating at about 9.15."

He usually trains either at Croydon or on the Tooting Bec track. The cinder track at his home is unfortunately very uneven (there is a drop of 8 inches) & it is difficult to run laps faster than 70secs. but the surrounding countryside is very suitable for running. While staying at Freiburg with Gerschler, Pirie spent a lot of time off the track (though he had to run 20 x 200 metres in under 28 secs. on one occasion). He took a very exhausting I.Q. test of adding long lists of figures which all Gerschler's protégés have to go through & managed to break the previous record held by Barthel. Then his reactions were tested at various speeds on a bicycling machine of Dr. Kurt Reindell the resident lecturer in physiology at the University. Finally Gordon was told to go as fast as he could for as long as he could. Eventually, after 14 minutes, soaked in sweat, Pirie was still cycling. Dr. Reindell stepped forward, amazement on his face "All right, stop!", he exclaimed, "we're not getting anywhere!"

PIRIE'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. The British champions plans for the future are clear-cut. His main aim is to win the 5,000 & 10,000 metres at Berne. To succeed he feels he must run 28:50.0 & 13:50.0. In the 10,000 the task is straightforward enough - get out in front & stay there. But in the 5,000 he will run a carefully planned tactical race & he may not attempt to lead until the last three laps. Pirie is a great believer in a distance runner making the final effort over the last 800m. instead of the final 300. "The last lap but one is the time when your opponent is relaxing, preparing himself for the final drive. It is the time to jump him as he is not mentally primed for a struggle."

During the early season races will be over 880 & mile. Gerschler has made 1:51.0 the target & Gordon will run only in the mile at Vancouver. He will defend both his AAA titles & then on to Berne. He WILL run cross-country but only twice - the Surrey & Inter-Banks. The 4 minute mile is, of course, in his mind but he does not yet think he can do it. He believes he would have to do the 1st lap in 57.0. If his programme permits he might run against Bannister in late May.

In 1956, Reindell says Pirie should run 13:44.0 & 29:40.0! If the enthusiasm I witnessed last month at Tooting continues, I have no doubt that these fantastic times will be done at Melbourne.

### Pirie Will Do It

Only 25 minutes later the crowd were shouting for another world record with Gordon Pirie loping round the track in the three miles during the match against France.

For the first three laps he kept within his target of breaking the Swede Gundar Haegg's time, but then the opposition began to fall away, and he was left to battle alone over the critical second mile and began to drop behind the stop watch.

When he began the third mile he was 3.2 seconds behind the lap times needed to break Haegg's record. A gallant effort to give Britain a second world record in an hour ended in his missing it by four seconds.

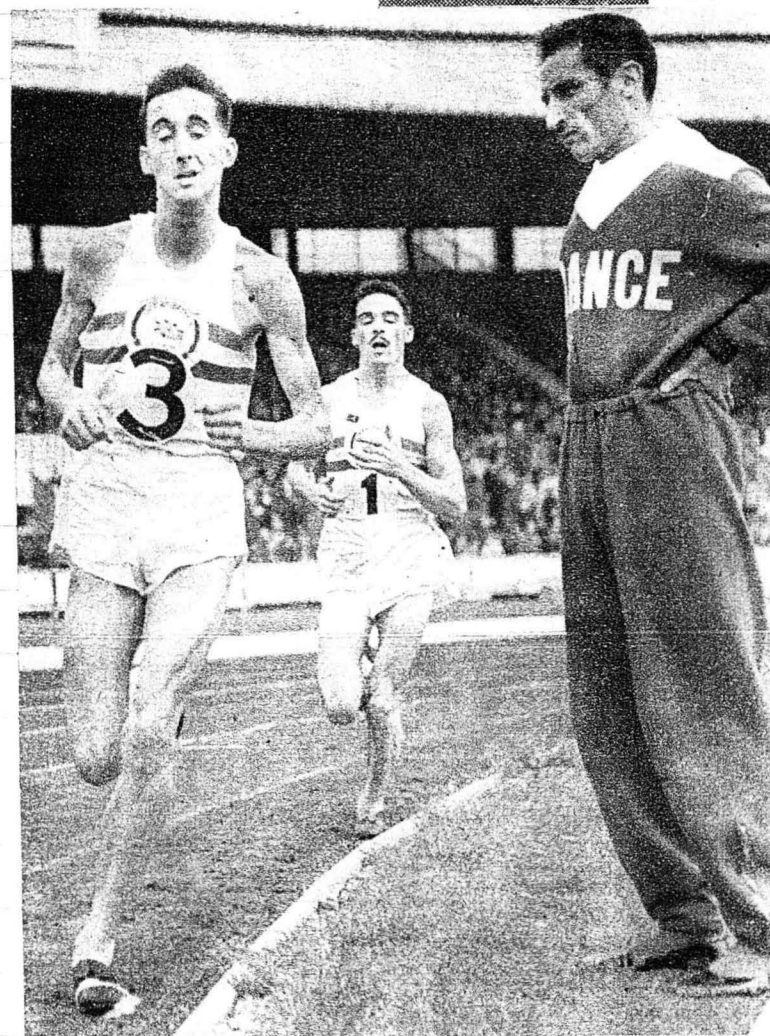
But he beat a number of other times, including his own British all-comers' record by 5.4sec.

There is little doubt that Pirie will break this record eventually, as he has crept nearer every time he has run the three miles.

To gauge the strength of his time of 13min. 36.4sec. it must be remembered that only three men in the world had beaten 14min. before the war and not one British athlete.



Gordon Pirie alkaa jo uhkailla Häggin maailmanennätystä, sillä hän juoksi Englanti-Ranska yleisurheilutoullussa 3 mailia aikaan 13.36.4, mikä on myös uusi Britannian ennätys. Seuraavina ovat oheisessa kuvassa F. Green, M. Abdel Krim ja R. Mahatt



TROIS MILES. — Pirie, suivi de Green, s'en va vers la victoire dans ce 3 miles, sous l'œil sombre et méditatif de Mimoun. « Ah! si j'avais couru! »

Three Miles: D. A. G. Pirie (G.B.), 1; F. Green (G.B.), 2; M. Abdel Krim (F.), 3; R. Mahatt (F.), 4; won easily; 13min. 36.4sec. (British all-comers' record). British National and English native





## ANOTHER PIRIE TRIUMPH

### A THRILLING MILE

FROM OUR ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A dramatic surprise awaited the 40,000 people who had assembled at the White City on Saturday to witness the British Games and, above all else, see what would happen in the international invitation mile. In it, even without such men as Bannister, Barthel, Lueg, and Landy, there was a field of some distinction. Santee, of America, and Ericsson, of Sweden, obviously were outstanding. Nankeville and Chataway recently had helped to set up new world figures in a relay. Then, of course, there was D. A. G. Pirie, indulging in what most people thought was little more than a sporting experiment. Yet it was Pirie who won, and in the manner of a champion. His time of 4min. 6.8sec., in fact, made him the third fastest British miler on record.

The afternoon was beautifully fine, but a southerly wind blew up the track not only in the faces of the sprinters and hurdlers but of the milers and half-milers as they raced up the straight on the western side of the stadium. These conditions prevented the



D. A. G. Pirie winning the international mile at the White City in 4min. 6.8sec.

setting up of any track records, but they could not prevent Pirie from adding to his recent triumphs in the three and six miles a still more remarkable victory in a vastly different kind of event. Pirie, admittedly, had dabbled in the mile before and achieved the excellent time of 4min. 11sec. on one occasion. But who would have thought him capable of running an almost model mile in such a field, or of cutting his own best time by such a margin in the process? His last lap was not the least astonishing part of the performance.

The excitement could be felt and heard when the event was announced. The great Whitfield—another experimentalist—had withdrawn to run in the 880 yards, and Taipale, a Finn, was also an absentee, but a field of six was ample. Lawrenz, a comparatively unknown German, set the pace, followed by Chataway, Nankeville, Pirie, Ericsson, and Santee, the last two lying so far back as to convey an impression almost of indifference to the opposition. Admittedly, both had times to their credit which seemed to warrant the confidence, but the tactics proved disastrous in the end.

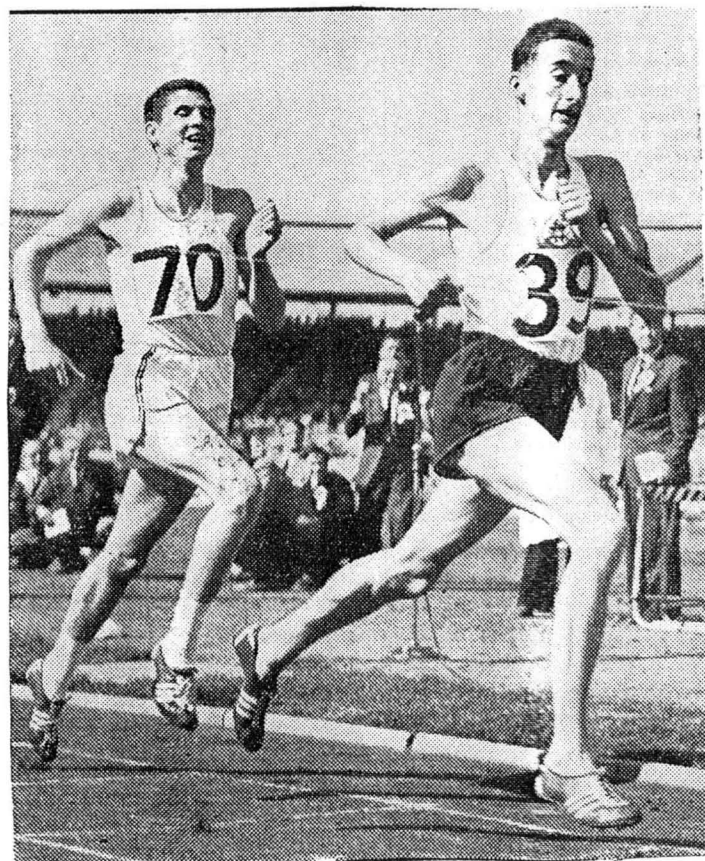
#### PIRIE'S JUDGMENT

Lawrenz set the time for the first quarter, 61sec., and for the half, 2min. 4.4sec., at which stage the order had changed only to the extent of Santee moving up sharply in front of Ericsson. One can at least claim to have noted that Pirie was running with admirable ease and, for him, rare restraint, in the fourth position.

In the course of the third lap Pirie added considerably to the excitement by moving up in front of Nankeville, Chataway and Lawrenz, but Santee and Ericsson went with him and, although Pirie led at the bell in 3min. 8.4sec., the spectators—unless there were any with inside information—still regarded his effort as more of a gesture than a serious challenge to the reputations of Santee and Ericsson, not to mention the others. Leaving the straight for the bend leading to the backstretch, the pace quickened into a dash and not only Santee but Nankeville and Ericsson went after Pirie. Unfortunately, the dash brought about a collision between Nankeville and the Swede, who, as it turned out, was disqualified for something vaguely described as an infringement.

Nankeville regained his balance and continued his challenge of the leaders, but it was Santee who passed Pirie so swiftly that again one grossly underestimated Pirie's capacity as a miler. Pirie, in fact, fought back at once, and so well and with such determination that, although Santee was clearly in front at the final bend, there still were no signs of him shaking off the pursuit completely. Indeed, amid a roar of cheering, Pirie overhauled a swerving Santee about 50 yards from the tape and stayed on to beat him by three yards. Nankeville was given the third place, a further 15 yards behind. Santee accepted his surprising defeat handsomely, and Pirie was given an ovation which ended only when the television cameramen cornered him.

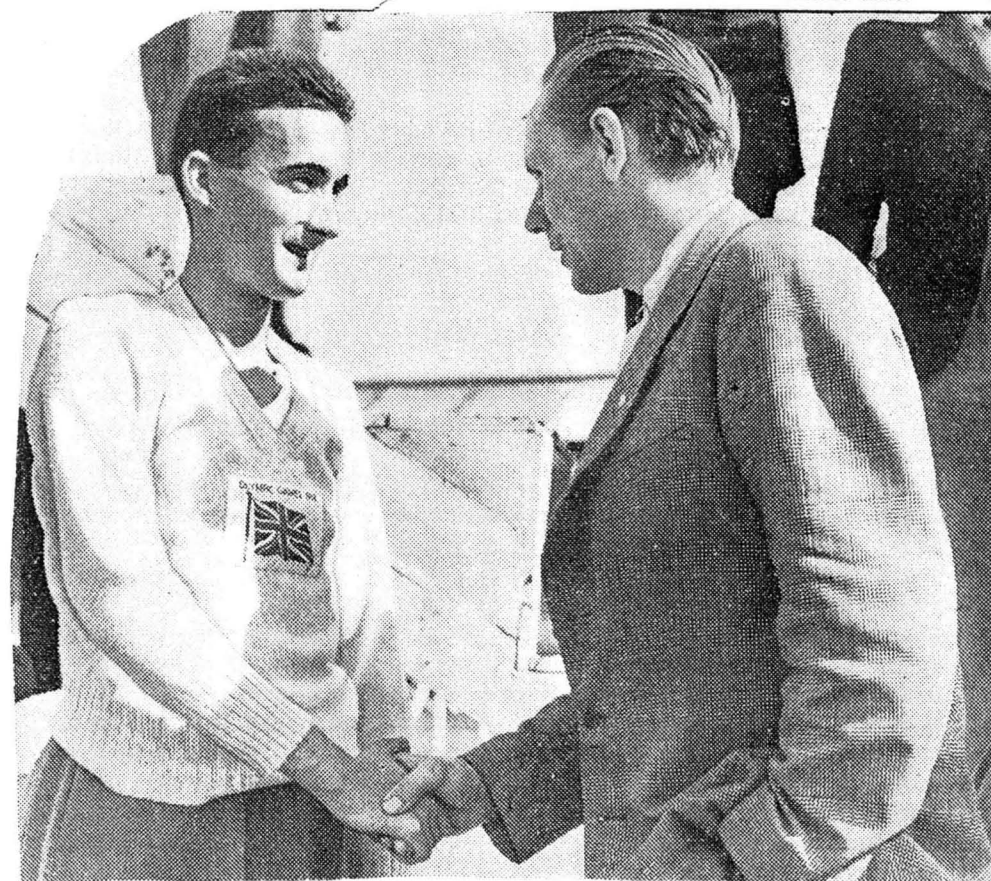
This was the finish of a sensational race . . . Britain's Gordon Pirie, in his first all-star mile, beats America's Wes Santee, to win in 4min. 6.8sec. as the White City crowd roars its joy.



### PIRIE, IMBATTABLE!

A White City (de triste mémoire) se sont déroulés samedi les « British Games ». Voici un passage du « mile » enlevé magistralement par le jeune Anglais Gordon Pirie, dans le temps excellent de 4' 6" 8/10. Pirie fut félicité après sa victoire par le fameux Suédois Gundar Haegg. Sur notre photo, dans l'ordre : Lawrenz, Chataway, Nankeville, Pirie (39), Ericsson, et le célèbre miler américain Wes Santee.

Gordon Pirie (left) wearing his Helsinki Olympic sweater, meets Gundar Haegg, former Swedish miler, who has come nearer than any other runner to Pirie's new objective, the four-minute mile.





## .. Pirie For Norway



HEAVILY LADEN with ruck-sack and pack, Britain's wonder runner Gordon Pirie, the 22-years-old bank clerk who did the mile in 4 minutes 6.8 seconds at White City last week, left King's Cross today for a holiday in Norway. He travelled with the South London Harriers and Pirie's vacation will include four long-distance races.



Belgium's FRANS HERMAN

## Pirie gets angry: Race was NO race

OSLO, Tuesday. — Gordon Pirie, 22-year-old bank clerk who is now Britain's wonder runner, said tonight that he and Belgian Franz Herman "fixed" a race between them.

It was an angry Pirie who finished the 3,000 metres in Oslo ten yards behind Herman.

For Pirie was taught a lesson in finishing by the 23-year-old Belgian schoolteacher in a terrific tussle over the last 50 of the 3,218 yards.

### So slow

Their times were so slow that many of the crowd called the race a mockery. Herman did 8mins. 39.4secs.; Pirie 8mins. 41.6secs. Pirie has previously done the distance in 8mins. 8secs., and Herman in 8mins. 6.6secs.

Afterwards Pirie threw his running clothes on the floor of the changing room in a rage and said: "Yes, I'm angry. Not because I lost, but with the Norwegian promoters."

"The race should never have been run. Neither Herman nor I wanted it."

"I have to run for England in our toughest match of the year in Berlin on Saturday, and Herman has to show the flag behind the Iron Curtain in Rumania the same day. It is only four days off."

### 'Pipped'

"The Norwegians insisted on us turning out. They said they would lose £500 if we disappointed the crowd today."

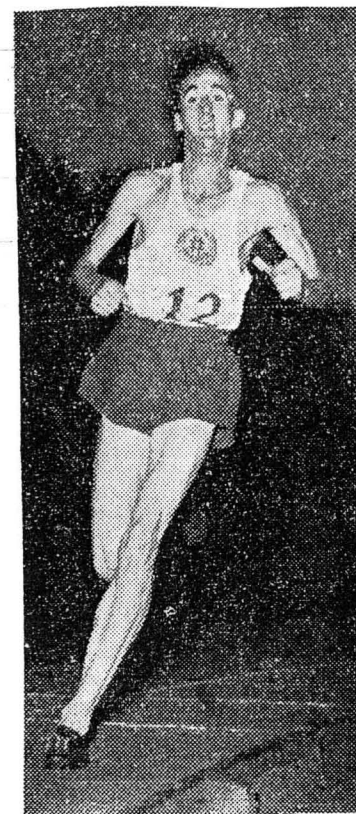
"What could we do? But before the start Herman and I agreed to run slowly. He pipped me with his quarter-mile finishing burst in the home straight."

Herman confirmed Pirie's version. He said: "Gordon and I were forced into a position where we had to stage-manage the race if we were to do justice to our countries on Saturday."

FOOTNOTE: The race provided pure comedy as well as hot temper. Because of the "go slow" pact, Pirie's brother Peter, just an ordinary club runner, was 100 yards in the lead on the last lap.

The stars just managed to catch him. And the crowd loved it.

3000 m.: 1) Frans Herman, Belgia 8.39.4. 2) Gordon Pirie, England 8.41.6. 3) Joe LaPierre, USA 8.43.2. 4) Peter James Pirie, England 8.48.4. 5) Johan Bringsrud, Notodden 9.12.4. 6) Amund Bohn, Simostranda I. L. 9.13.8.



## PIRIE LOWERS A TRACK RECORD

BERGEN, Norway, Tuesday. — Gordon Pirie, British holder of the world six-mile record, beat the track record here tonight when he easily won the 1,500 metres in 53.4secs.

1500 m. løp.	
1) Gordon Pirie, SLH	3.53.4
2) John Midtbø, Tjalve	4.01.6
3) Mike Firth, SLH	4.01.8
4) Per Strømsnes, Viking	4.11.4
5) Jare Støland, Gular	4.13.6
6) Roy Jensen, Nymark	4.14.0
7) Johnny Prin, SLH	4.17.0
8) Kåre Næss, Norrøna	4.18.0
9) Norman Jondal, Gular	4.19.0

GORDON PIRIE (til venstre) bryter mdsnoren lett og uanstrengt etter en unnerlia 1500 meter. Til høyre er det kamp om meterne ved inn.

## PIRIE CLIPS RECORD, KEEPS ON GOING

From RALPH HEWINS: Odda (Norway), Sunday

IRON man Gordon Pirie is at it again. The 22-year-old Coulsdon (Surrey) bank clerk yesterday clipped 12.2 seconds off the track record in this athletics-minded industrial town when he made his own pace to clock 3 minutes 53.2 seconds for 1,500 metres.

At 6 a.m. today he was up again in time for 30 minutes' training before catching a motor coach for the 12-hour ride to Notodden, where he will compete again tomorrow.

After snatching a bite of food on arrival at Notodden he was broadcasting over the Norwegian radio at 9 p.m. tonight.

"Don't you ever get fagged?" I asked. "I must say I am a bit tired now," he was human enough to admit.

Tomorrow he is down for the 3,000 metres. Over the same distance in Oslo the next day he is billed to meet the great Belgian runner Frans Herman, who has been beating the 3,000 metres world record holder, Gaston Reiff, all this season.

## Now Pirie wins 800 metres

OSLO, Monday. — Gordon Pirie, Britain's world six-mile record holder, tonight won over 800 metres in 1min. 56sec.

He was a member of a South London Harriers team which gained several successes in a meeting at Notodden, on a track slow after rain.

Pirie won, without undue effort, by a second from Otto Soerboe (Norway), with Martin Walmsley (S. London H.) third in 1min. 57.5sec.

## This was no test for Pirie

VOSS (Western Norway), Friday. — Gordon Pirie, British holder of the world six miles record, and other members of the South London Harriers team, won five events at the international athletics meeting here.

Pirie had nearly half-a-minute to spare when winning the 3000 metres in 8min. 11.4sec. from the Norwegian Viggo Opheim.



# Now Pirie must choose: Run or —swot

Daily Mail Reporter  
EDWARD GORING

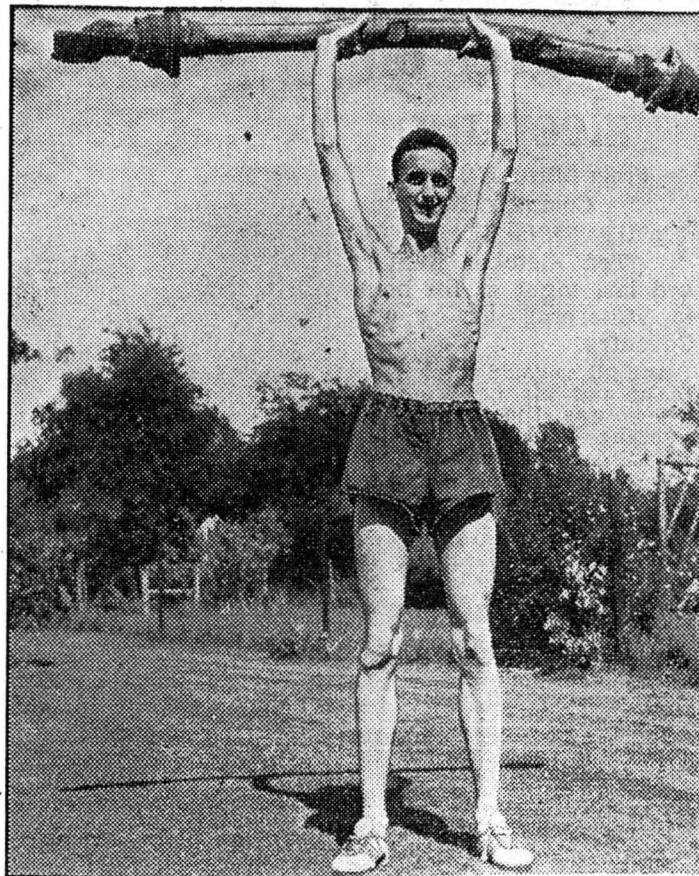
THE young bank clerk who is on the way to becoming one of the world's greatest runners, 22-year-old Gordon Pirie, returned from a 12-mile trot in the noonday heat yesterday and said: "Training, that's the thing."

It is also Pirie's dilemma. For the lean, lanky, 6ft. 2in. athlete spends all his spare time training.

Each evening he goes home to Coulsdon, Surrey, after putting away his ledger, and runs across the Downs. Last week he covered more than 100 miles.

But for a successful banking career the Institute of Bankers examinations lie ahead, needing most of his leisure time for study.

Pirie, who has not yet decided whether work or play should come first, is concentrating at present on athletics rather than accountancy.



## Next—Zatopec

Holder of the world six-mile record, he surprised everyone by beating internationals in the British Games at the White City Stadium, London, on Saturday and winning the mile in 4min. 68sec.

"I am disappointed in one way," he said yesterday. "I was hoping to do better than 4min. 6sec."

His aim now is to catch up on champions Zatopek (10,000 metres) and Gundar Haegg (5,000 metres).

But Gordon's 52-year-old father, Mr. Alexander Pirie, is wondering about his son's future. Looking wistfully at the trophy which he won for cross-country running in 1926, he said: "I was like Gordon when I was his age."

Mr. Pirie, a former international athlete, president of South London Harriers, whose running career has only just ended added:

"I had to choose between sport and examinations. I decided on sport. Now I wish I had gone in for the examinations. Bread and butter is important, you know."

## No more miles

Gordon is too modest to set out to break records and is surprised when it happens.

Although on Saturday he trounced some of the world's fastest milers—including Kansas cowboy Wesley Santee—Pirie does not plan to run another mile in competition this year.

Next Friday he leaves with a South London Harriers team for races in Norway.

He said: "The nearest I shall get to a mile time will be during two 1,500-metre events in Norway."

## He just keeps...



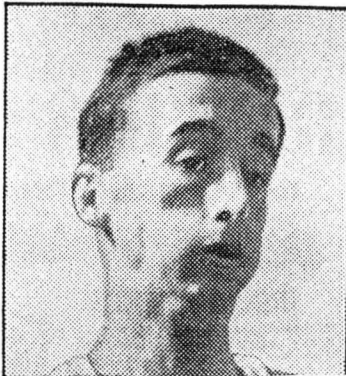
WITH a heave and a ho, Pirie hoists up a home-made barbell.

Training is under way for something which, to Pirie, is far more important. Running.

He began (left) at five; now runs 100 practice miles a week.

And here (below) is how he looked as he won the mile at the White City.

## ...on running



Det var svårt att fånga in Gordon Pirie, men vi lyckades slutligen få honom i nätmaskorna. Hans mål är världsrekord.

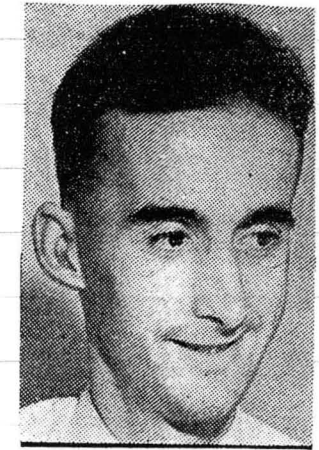






## Gordon Pirie Is Twice Honoured

"Evening News" Reporter  
THE A.A.A. announced the following annual awards today: To Gordon Pirie (South London Harriers)—the C. N. Jackson Memorial Cup as the outstanding athlete of the year. Also the Harvey Memorial Gold Cup, for the best champion of the year, for his dual victory in the three miles and the six miles A.A.A. championships.  
The last athlete to win these two awards in the same season was Sidney Wooderson in 1946.



GORDON PIRIE

### Pirie: U.S. tribute

EVERY year around this time the U.S. awards the Helms World Trophy honours. They are given to the foremost amateur athletes in each of the five continents, and will be announced today.

I'll give you one guess who gets the prize for Europe—and you will be wrong if you name Zatopek. It goes to our own Gordon Pirie, for excelling at distances from one to six miles.

His name will be engraved on the Helms World Trophy, which is of silver and gold and 6ft. tall, and he receives a silver plaque to add to the already formidable prize collection smothering the Pirie sideboard at Coulsdon.

With two world records this year, Pirie's fame has spread far and wide, but I think what impressed Americans even more than his long runs was his shock defeat of their crack miler, Wes Santee, when he visited London last August.

The Helms selections are made only after hundreds of athletics authorities throughout the world have been consulted, and Pirie is the first Englishman to be chosen as Europe's outstanding athlete. Highly encouraging—but is Pirie satisfied? He is not.

"I am still short of world standard. I've got to train even harder," he says. His big ambition is to beat Zatopek in the coming European championships and, if possible, go on to win an Olympic crown in 1956.

### Tributes To Pirie

ANOTHER commemorative plaque is on the way to the Coulsdon home of Gordon Pirie, the Lloyds Bank clerk who rocketed to the top as Britain's greatest distance runner this year.

This time it is a silver one, from the United States, presented by the Helms Athletic Foundation, who have named our Gordon as the foremost athlete in Europe.

Pirie will have his name engraved on the Helms world trophy in Los Angeles. He is the first Englishman to figure on the list since the award was started in 1948.



STILL GOING STRONG after 3½ hours of practice laps at Tooting Bec was wonder runner Gordon Pirie, 22, named today by the Amateur Athletic Association as winner of both the C. N. Jackson Memorial Cup as Athlete of the Year and the Harvey Gold Cup as the A.A.A. Champion of the Year.



INTER BANKS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP AT HAYES 1953.

## Latest Pirie title merely 'duty'

By

GEOFFREY  
SIMPSON

**B**URSTING through the trees into a clearing and streaking for the finish-line at sprinters' pace, Gordon Pirie, the 20-mile-a-day man, earned yet another title on Saturday when he won the inter-banks' cross-country championship on Hayes Common, Kent.

As a bank clerk, Pirie could hardly miss an event like this. Besides, his bank, Lloyds, were defending the team title. He rose to the occasion with his usual brilliance, and not another of 61 runners was in sight as he completed the five miles.

But for Pirie, although he is national champion, cross-country running no longer has a recognised place in his programme. In normal conversational tones, while other men were coming in completely "blown," Pirie told me he had given it up for good.

### OVERTIME

"Why? It interferes with my training. I've got a track schedule mapped out that I am hopeful will bring me European and Olympic honours. It means three hours' training a night after my day's work."

He covers 20 miles a night, either across the common near his Coulsdon home or on a cinder track, mixing short, fast bursts with long spells of slow running. That is the Zatopek method, though it is planned for him by his German trainer, Gerschler, with a weekly letter.

No wonder a five-mile race is treated by Pirie like a training spin! That is all it was, really, for having inquired what his time was (29min. 57sec.) and declared himself "disappointed," Pirie put on a blue jacket and departed on a six-mile solo run.

It was his fifth successive victory in the race, and though from now on it is going to be a "duty event," there is no reason why he should not double his score. He won by 26sec. from J. D. Wood, of the trophy-winning Barclays team, and third was his brother Peter.

And making it a real family occasion for the Pirie boys, their

father, Alex Pirie, turned out in running kit and trained while the race was on!

Pirie senior's influence on Gordon's triumphant progress is not small. He is a Scottish ex-international and former president of South London Harriers, to which the Piries belong.

### PIRIE RETAINS BANKS TITLE

Although he had a fall during the race, D. A. G. Pirie, Britain's athlete of the year, easily scored his fifth successive win in the five-miles championship of the Inter Banks A.A. at Hayes, Kent, on Saturday, his time being 29min. 57sec. Parts of the course were slippery and Pirie, who was running in plimsolls, fell after covering half the distance, but he lost little time by the mishap and won by about 120 yards from J. D. Wood, who was runner-up in 30min. 23sec.

There was a surprise in the team championship as Pirie's side, Lloyds, who had held the title for three years, were beaten by Barclays by a single point.

SURREY CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP AT WIMBLEDON 1954.



### \* NOT SUCH A GAY GORDON— BUT HE WON \*

**T**HE man who hit the headlines with a rumour that he's bound for America makes a striking Front Page picture. With cheeks blown out and a general air of "Am I glad that's over," Britain's wonder runner, Gordon Pirie, sits down in the foggy gloom to put on his socks after retaining his Surrey cross-country title at Wimbledon yesterday. His time for the 7½ miles was 39min. 37sec.

But for once Galloping Gordon did not have matters all his own way. He led from the start but was chased for nearly three-quarters of the way by 21-year-old Peter Driver, a fellow club member of South London Harriers, who finished only 30 yards (6sec.) behind him.

Once he was nearly caught by Driver, last year's national junior champion, but managed to draw away from him near the end.

Said Pirie afterwards: "I don't like the fog. It was one of my worst experiences." He finished the race coughing badly, but immediately went in search of Driver to congratulate him.

Asked last night about THAT rumour, Pirie replied: "Well, it is true, partially. I have not decided definitely."



# U.S. is after fleet-foot Pirie

**G**ORDON PIRIE, 22-year-old Surrey bank clerk and running record-shatterer, may go to America to study at a leading university—and run for the university, too.

He said last night at Coulsdon, where he lives: "I have received invitations from several American universities.

## UNDECIDED

"It is a great opportunity, but I have not yet made up my mind.

"I shall have to talk the matter over with several people before I make a definite decision.

"In any case, I would not go before the European games in Switzerland next August."

He would not say which universities have made the offers. He added: "My

family do not want me to go, nor do several friends."

His mother said: "It's what lies behind the invitation that matters most.

"I'm not very impressed, but I can only advise. It's up to Gordon."

Asked if he might stay in America permanently, Pirie said: "How can one

tell? I might not like America. On the other hand, I might like it very much.

"Most of the studying over there appears to be done between September and May, so I could quite possibly hop over to defend some of my British titles."

If he accepted the invitation and eventually became an American citizen, he could not run in international events or Olympics for America—only for Britain. That is an international rule.

Pirie runs in the Surrey cross-country championship at Wimbledon to-day.

## Pirie offered scholarship by U.S. university

Daily Mail Reporter

**G**ORDON PIRIE, 22-year-old Croydon bank clerk who holds the world's six-mile record, may work his passage to America to take up a scholarship at a leading American university.

The 6ft. 2in. record-breaker said at his Coulsdon home last night: "If I accept the offer, I will not leave England until after the European Games next August, when I run against Zatopek, the Czech.

"And if I go it should be possible for me to hop back to defend some of my British titles.

## No 'inducements'

"It is a plain, straightforward offer of a scholarship. There are no other 'inducements' such as some American universities are commonly supposed to offer to athletes they desire to enrol.

"In fact, I should have to work my passage across the Atlantic."

Pirie refused to name the university making the offer—one of several he has received from American universities.

"I was first approached at the Helsinki Olympic Games," he said. "Invitations have been reaching me ever since then."

Pirie said he would talk over the offer with several people before making up his mind. One of those whose advice he will seek is his German coach and mentor, Waldemar Gerschler.

If he goes he will be following in the footsteps of Jack and Bert Wardrop, the Scots boys and British swim champions, who are now studying at Michigan University.

## Pirie may go in July

Bank clerk Gordon Pirie, at 22 Britain's greatest distance runner, said in the 700th edition of the B.B.C.'s *In Town Tonight* last night that he had not yet definitely decided whether to accept one of the several offers he had to study at—and run for—an American university.

Pirie, who yesterday won the Surrey cross-country championship, said later: "If I go it will be some time during the summer, possibly July.

PAINT FIRM SAVES No. 1 ATHLETE FOR BRITAIN

# Gordon Pirie Is NOT Going To United States

By H. J. OATEN

**G**ORDON PIRIE has been saved for Britain. No American University is to be allowed to snap up the greatest British athlete of the year with an offer of a sports scholarship.

Instead the tall, lean Surrey runner who lives for nothing but athletics will stay in this country—in a new job which will give him more time to carry on his athletics preparation in the way he regards best.

Pirie has accepted an appointment as a salesman with a firm of paint manufacturers and suppliers. To-day he resigned his position as a Lloyds Bank clerk, and will start his new job on March 1.

In his new job Pirie will be on salary and commission, and is being provided with a car. He is on a seven years' contract. "I did not ask for the contract," Pirie told me, "but my new employers thought it would be a safeguard."

## 'Enough Freedom'

"If I take too much time off for my athletics my sales will go down and I'll earn less. The situation is, however, that in this new position I will have enough freedom to train as it suits me best.

"No longer will it be necessary for me to rush home from work at night and then get in my training runs in the dark. If I want to, I can train in daylight and that is a very great help to somebody like me who has to train for long periods every day if I am to achieve all my ambitions on the track."

Next to Jim Peters, the marathon star, Pirie is the hardest-working athlete in Britain when it comes to training. His daily training under his German coach, Waldemar Gerschler, lasts three hours and he never misses.

Every night for years it has been home from the bank, change into running kit and track suit, and then out on to the track or to Farthing Downs, near his home at Coulsdon. Once a week he does his three hours in Army boots to strengthen his leg muscles.

Pirie's new job will ease his financial problems. These can be quite considerable—Pirie estimates his athletics cost him at least £2 weekly in travelling and other incidentals.

His new salary will be, in his own words, "considerably higher than before"—I believe in the

region of something over £800 a year.

Pirie will be 23 next month. This new job with its seven months' contract will, therefore, see him through the most important years of his athletics career in circumstances which he considers ideal for the plans he has mapped out for himself on the track.

Not that 30 can be spoken of as a retiring age for Pirie. He has only just touched the fringe of what we all expect to be a career which will completely outshadow even the great Zatopek.

## Regular Offers

Offers of sports scholarships at American Universities have been reaching Pirie with almost weekly regularity for the past 18 months.

The new job means no change in Pirie's plans for 1954. "I shall carry on according to the schedule I have mapped out with Gerschler," Pirie told me. "This means that if they want me to go to Vancouver for the Empire Games in July I am ready, but my main objective will be, as always, the European championships in Berne at the end of August, when I look forward to another meeting with Zatopek."

## NEW JOB TO HELP GORDON PIRIE TRAIN

Gordon Pirie is resigning his job with Lloyds Bank and is taking another post with a paint firm.

He will not be going to America to take up a sports scholarship. His new position will give him better chances to train as he likes in this country.

Pirie's mother said today: "Gordon has had many letters and several offers of jobs since it became known that American universities wanted him."

"He thought it over and took this one."

Pirie, who is 23, is one of our hardest training athletes, modelling his methods on Emil Zatopek, the Czech, whom he hopes to meet in the European championships at Berne later this year.

He covers more than 100 training miles each week.



**FOOTING IT**—Gordon Pirie on the way from his Coulsdon home today to travel by train to the City, where he began his new job as a paint salesman. "I like the exercise," he said, re-



Gordon Pirie.



# GORDON PIRIE



## Pirie's triumph

**B** RITAIN'S national ballot to elect the Sportsman of the Year—the person who did most during the past year to raise the prestige of British sport—has resulted in a fine victory for **GORDON PIRIE**, the great middle-distance runner who scored success after success at home and abroad, and is now our main hope to lower the colours of the fabulous Emil Zatopek this year.

**STANLEY MATTHEWS**—Stanley the incomparable

football artist—is in second place. His great showings on his return to the England side after being "out in the cold" and his tremendous personal triumph in the Cup Final will earn him his place.

**LEN HUTTON**, last year's winner, is in third place. This seems hard on Len, after his captaincy of the team that won back the Ashes for us—but the cricket-lovers' vote was "split" three ways between him, Alec Bedser and Trevor Bailey, both of whom are high up in the "big twelve."

Show-jumping star **PAT SMYTHE** is in fourth place, and easily wins the title of Sportswoman of the Year—a separate award we intro-

duced last year and of which Jeannette Altwegg was the first winner. Pat Smythe's great victories in the show ring, particularly in America, won her thousands of votes. Runner-up sportswoman for the second year in succession is cyclist Eileen Sheridan. Surely her turn will come?

The remainder of the top twelve are: Alec Bedser, Sir Gordon Richards, Trevor Bailey, Billy Wright, Lt.-Col. Harry Llewellyn, Geoffrey Duke, Randolph Turpin and Reg Harris.

The leaders polled as follows:—

**GORDON PIRIE ... 35,762**  
**STANLEY MATTHEWS ... 24,406**

**LEN HUTTON ..... 16,804**  
**PAT SMYTHE ..... 16,508**

Total votes cast numbered 194,750



**GORDON PIRIE and PAT SMYTHE**, elected Sportsman and Sportswoman of 1953, receive their "Sporting Record" Trophies from Lord Aberdare.



### 6.30 SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Presentation of the Sporting Record Trophy to

Gordon Pirie  
by Lord Aberdare, C.B.E.  
Commentator, Rex Alston  
From the Savoy Hotel, London  
See 'Both Sides of the Microphone'

### 'Play hard' says Pirie

Gordon Pirie, British three and six-mile champion, gave a message last night to Britain's up-and-coming youngsters. He said: "Go for your sport hard, and go to win. If you do these two things, and be a good sportsman as well, you are sure to put Britain on top again."

Pirie was acknowledging the presentation of the "Sportsman of the Year" trophy by Lord Aberdare.

Lord Aberdare described the choice of Pirie as a "filip to amateur sport generally, as well as a tribute to a miracle man of athletics."

He said the "greatest duel in sporting history" was likely to be seen this summer between Pirie and Emil Zatopek—"these two wonder men."

Miss Pat Smythe, the noted horsewoman, received a trophy as the sportswoman of the year.



# Pirie Meeting His German Coach

GORDON PIRIE runs in Hannut, Belgium, to-morrow in a special race over two miles in which he can expect to meet a number of Continental stars, among them Gaston Reiff, Franz Herman and Van de Wattyne of Belgium.

Gordon is breaking his decision not to run over the country in order to honour a promise made nearly a year ago that he would appear in this event.

The second reason for his journey is more personal and more important. Gordon will meet his German coach, Woldemar Gerschler, travelling up from Pribourg in the Black Forest, just to have a chat with his English protege.

## That New Job

One of the more important things Pirie and Gerschler may talk about will be Gordon's new job, which he starts on March 1. They will decide any changes, if considered necessary, in Gordon's training schedule once he becomes free to train in the daytime and not only at night.

Pirie will want to show Gerschler a letter he has just received from the man he is most anxious to beat—Emil Zatopek. It was a chatty, friendly letter, in which Zatopek told Pirie a little about his training plans but much more about himself and his wife, Dana. Zatopkova, the Olympic women's javelin champion, Dana, it appears, has taken up skiing in a big way.

## Zatopek's Warning

Zatopek's strong advice to Pirie was, "Don't accept any invitations to run in indoor events in America. They have a disastrous effect on summer plans."

Pirie is of the same opinion and has already turned down U.S. invitations.

**SURPRISE** for Gordon Pirie is a long and cordial letter from Czech wonder runner Emil Zatopek, some of whose records Pirie has sworn to smash.

The letter, written in perfect English, starts "Dear Gordon" and ends "Sincerely, Emil Zatopek." And it advises Pirie not to accept any offers of scholarships from U.S. universities.

The triple Olympic champion confirms that he is training as hard as ever, running five 200 metres then 40 quarter-miles with only half a lap jogging between each and winding up with another five runs over 200 metres. A total distance each day of about 16½ miles.

## Wife Recovered

ZATOPEK'S fantastic programme is carried out seven days a week and differs widely from Pirie's training, which consists of fewer repetitions over longer distances.

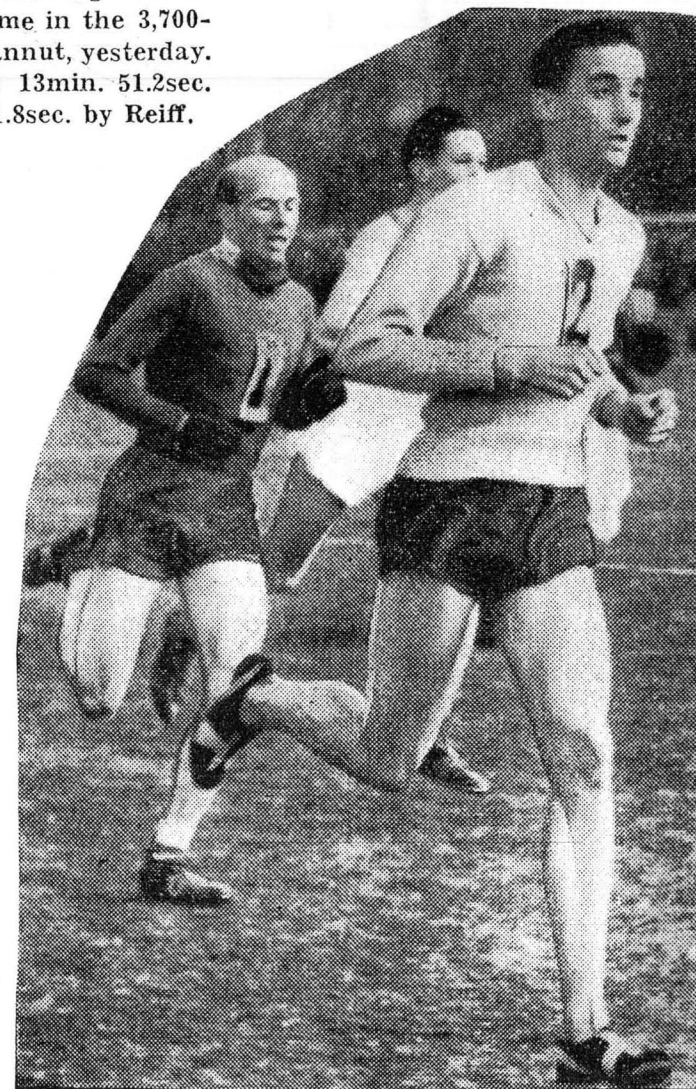
Zatopek also gives news of his wife Dana, Olympic women's javelin champion, who broke an ankle last summer when her husband playfully threw her into a swimming pool.

He says the ankle is now mended and his wife is taking up skiing.

The jovial Czech concludes by saying "he is looking forward" to meeting Pirie again in Berne next August for the European championships.



Pirie leads his great Belgian rival Gaston Reiff home in the 3,700-metre race at Hannut, yesterday. Pirie's time was 13min. 51.2sec. against 14min. 1.8sec. by Reiff.



There's no mistaking this long-legged athlete, even though he isn't puffing out his cheeks. It's Gordon Pirie, Britain's world champion runner, seen here leading Belgian champion, Gaston Reiff, in their

gium.  
Pirie won the race by 25 yards—and then, accompanied by Gaston Reiff, went for an hour's training run under the

man coach, Woldemar Gerschler!  
It is all part of the Pirie Plan for his expected meetings with the triple Olympic champion Emil Zatopek in the European championships at Berne in August.

## THE PLAN

Gerschler, whose advice has always meant so much to Britain's champion, says "Pirie must train every day. Just enough to get tired but not exhausted."

And Gordon, with Berne in mind, will follow this plan.

In yesterday's race Reiff, winner of the 5,000 metres at the 1948 Olympics, and M. Langenus, another Belgian, stayed with Pirie until the half-way mark, but then the Englishman opened out and finished almost 25 yards in front of Reiff.

Pirie's time was 13min. 51.2sec. against Reiff's 14min. 1.8sec. with Langenus third in 14min. 31sec.

HANNUT, BELGIUM.  
1952.



## CROSS-COUNTRY TITLE

### PIRIE AGAIN CHAMPION

The decision of D. A. G. Pirie (South London Harriers) to defend the title made the result of the English National Senior cross-country championship at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, on Saturday almost a foregone conclusion, and he won easily, covering the nine and two-third miles in 50min. 55sec.

K. L. Norris (Thames Valley H.), the Southern champion, was runner-up in 51min. 23sec., some 90 yards behind the winner, and F. D. Sando (Aylesford P.M.S.C.), who had been runner-up last year, was third in 51min. 32sec. Bolton United Harriers totalled 152 points for their six scorers, South London Harriers being second with 259, and Birchfield Harriers, the holders, third with 287. The leading finishers were:—

D. A. G. Pirie (S. London H.) (holder), 50min. 55sec., 1; K. L. Norris (Thames Valley H.), 51min. 23sec., 2; F. D. Sando (Aylesford P.M.S.C.), 51min. 32sec., 3; C. M. Gray (Small Heath H.), 51min. 38sec., 4; P. B. Driver (S. London H.), 51min. 45sec., 5; W. Ranger (Eastbourne Rovers), 51min. 47sec., 6; D. Walker (Sheffield Utd. H.), 51min. 51sec., 7; M. R. Maynard (Heane Hill H.), 51min. 52sec., 8; K. Wood (Sheffield Utd. H.), 52min. 7sec., 9; E. L. Hardy (Derby and County A.C.), 52min. 18sec., 10.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP.—Bolton United H., 13, 20, 23, 25, 34, 37=152 points, 1; South London H., 1, 5, 21, 37, 61, 114=259 points, 2; Birchfield H. (holders), 14, 22, 39, 58, 59, 95=287 points, 3; Thames Valley H., 313 points, 4; Derby and County A.C., 396 points, 5; Coventry Godiva H., 405 points, 6.

### TOO FAST FOR CROWD, TOO

AFTER he had won the English Cross-Country championship at Arrowe Park, on Saturday, Gordon Pirie, the England runner, was mobbed by autograph hunters. He was rescued by Mr. W. L. Pollock, of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who took him to a First-Aid hut. Pirie had a cup of tea at the hut. Then, as the crowd had not dispersed he ran from the hut to the dressing rooms and nobody could catch him up.



D. A. G. PIRIE LEADS K. N. NORRIS IN THE "NATIONAL"

## Handshake for the winner

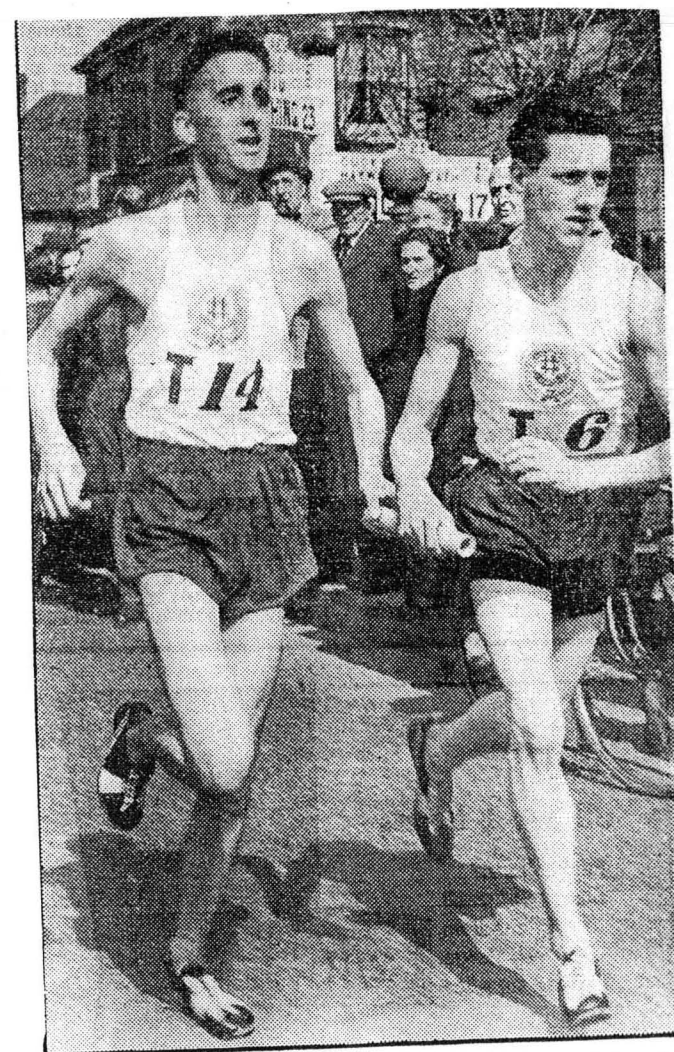


The Mayor of Birkenhead (Alderman W. E. R. Short) congratulating Gordon Pirie after his success in the English cross-country championships at Arrowe Park on Saturday. Looking on is Alderman H. Dawson (chairman of the Birkenhead Parks Committee).—Photo by Wm. Cull.

London To Brighton Relay 1954



THEY'RE OFF in the National Road Relay Race from London to Brighton to-day.



### PIRIE'S SIDE CLIP RECORD

A BRILLIANT run by Gordon Pirie (left), who took the longest "leg," enabled South London Harriers to win the News of the World London to Brighton relay (54 miles 1,348 yards) in the record time of 4hr. 31min. 37sec.

They beat the 22-year-old

record of Salford Harriers by 8min. 15sec.

Pirie began his lap of six miles 1,288 yards ten seconds behind his nearest rivals, but he handed over the baton to P. D. Driver at Handcross (above) with a lead of 65sec., having covered the distance in 33min. 29sec.

The remainder of the club supported his fine effort and went on to win by 2min. 6sec.

1, South London H., 4hr. 31min. 37sec.; 2, Belgrave H., 4-33-43; 3, Essex Beagles, 4-34-24.



## Pirie will not go to Vancouver

England's long-distance running star, Gordon Pirie, will not run in the Empire Games at Vancouver in July, says Harold Palmer.

This is the result of a decision he has just reached to cut his travelling next season. If he is fit, as is almost certain, he will run in the European championships in Switzerland in August; but he intends that that should be his only trip out of this country in 1954.

"I found it very tiring travelling to Helsinki for the Olympic Games," Pirie told me today. "That is only part of the distance that would be involved in a trip to Vancouver."

Amateur Athletic Association secretary Leslie Truelove recently asked prospective England team athletes whether they would be prepared to go to Vancouver. To this Pirie answered "Yes."

### 'Not committed'

"But I do not think this commits me in any way," says Pirie, who says he will let Mr. Truelove know his decision before the team is picked.

The decision is Pirie's alone, but his German coach, Waldemar Gerschler, impressed on him that running many three or six-mile races would impair his cardiac development.

That is why Pirie, 23 tomorrow, will run mostly miles in the coming season, but he does hope to run for Britain in both 5000 and 10,000 metres in the European Games.

## Pirie Is Turning Down U.S. Offer

Gordon Pirie is turning down a strong bid by the promoters of the Annual Los Angeles Coliseum meeting to join the greatest field ever assembled in the history of miling on May 21, writes Norris McWhirter.

The invitation, received today, offers to fly Pirie out to face John Landy of Australia, Wes Santee, the American mile record-holder, Mal Whitfield, the Negro world half-mile record holder and Josy Barthel, the reigning Olympic 1,500 metres champion.

Pirie said: "I shall not go because I am not doing any travelling this season until August."



## Surkeata

Kestävyysjuoksumme tilanne näyttää tällä hetkellä hieman surkealta. Vain Hannu Posti on niistä miehistä, jotka kesä-heinäkuussa juoksivat kovia tuloksia, säilyttänyt kuntonsa ainakin joten kuten. Julin jalkavaivainen, Taipaleessa "jotain mätää" jne. Ja samaan aikaan lyövät mm. pitkä Gordon Pirie ja pätäkä Vladimir Kuts lautaan aikoja, jotka hätkähdyttävät koko urheiluvaa maailmaa.



Schoolboys were able to see Gordon Pirie today during part of Surrey County AAA young athletes' course being held at Motspur Park this week. They watched Pirie in action and later his training methods were explained to them by expert athletic coaches.

## Surrey Boys Will Learn From Pirie

THERE is a treat in store for Surrey schoolboys who take advantage of the Surrey County A.A.A. young athletes' course at Motspur Park on April 20, 21 and 22. They will see Gordon Pirie in action and have his training methods explained to them by expert coaches.

It was a brilliant idea which came to the Surrey officials when they suggested to Pirie that he might transfer his daily training spell to Motspur Park for the duration of the course and give the boys the benefit of seeing him in action.

Pirie, an enthusiastic Surrey man himself, agreed.

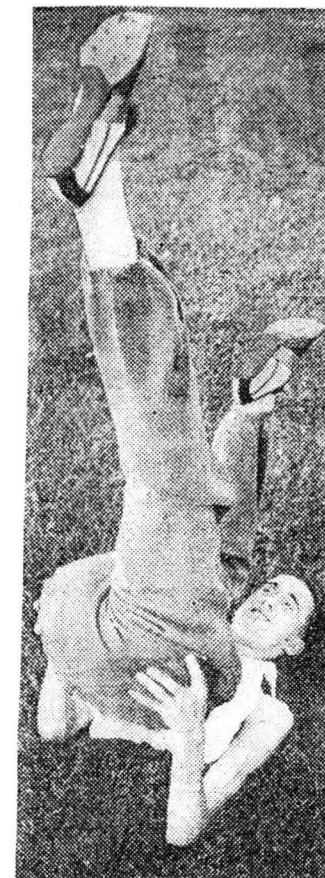
### Top Rank Training

The plan now is for Pirie to appear each morning at a time when normally the boys on the course would be having lectures. He will do between two and three hours' training daily, varying his methods so that the boys will see what it takes to attain the top rank of world distance runners.

## SPIKES FOR PIRIE



Putting on spiked shoes, wonder runner Gordon Pirie was ready for training in Ladywell Park, South London.



Two of Britain's fastest feet in the air as wonder runner Pirie jumps.

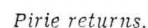


By ROY MOOR

The performance put Driver in line for his first international track vest. This may be won for steeple-chasing; he is showing great interest in the event.

"This season I feel I am running better than ever. Switching from my job in a bank to a paint firm has made all the difference.

As Pirie, looking springing-fit in his open-neck shirt, strode off, he threw back as an afterthought: "I think I shall do well this season."



World record for 2,000 metres (1 mile 427 yards) is 5min. 7sec. by Gaston Reiff (Belgium).

"It was just too stupid for words. I am very, very disappointed with my form but there is a long way to go in the season yet," said Pirie, who explained that he was feeling off colour and in the morning, when he took his pulse rate, it was 45 instead of its usual 38.

Pirie can take consolation from the fact that 4-11.6 on a rain-soaked track from a runner specialising in three and six miles is fair running. Before the race he had announced that he was not quite fit.

Yes, that's Pirie, away there in the corner of the picture, with not a hope of catching Brian Hewson and Don Macmillan in their desperate mile finish at Chiswick.

"If conditions are right, I am going for something like 13min. 26sec.," Gordon said, and experience has proved that when he says he is after records he rarely disappoints his public.



MOTSPUR PARK

# —it was training for the 'Master Race'

"PIRIE wins Surrey mile by only a stride." . . .

"Pirie returns 4m. 10.6s. for mile."

Those are the comments, with their implications of semi-failure, which greeted Gordon Pirie, Athlete of 1953, when he ripped 0.6s. off John Parlett's 1951 record for the Surrey mile at Motspur Park.

This was Pirie's first competitive mile since he beat Wes Santee, the American, in 4m. 6.8s., at the White City last summer.

When Pirie had finally "unwound" himself, and I was able to catch up with him sitting down, I asked:

"Had you any target before the race?"

The typical Pirie answer came. "Yes," he said. "To win."

Then he amplified this by saying: "I knew I could run this two ways. Either a fast three-quarter in 3m. 5s., in which case I should have held the lead all the way. In fact, the three-quarters was just over 3m. 12s., and then I had to win, as I knew I would have to, on the final sprint."

## NO ROOM FOR DEFEAT

Had he not won the mile, Pirie would have competed in the three miles as well—for defeat is no part of the Pirie plan.

But this race and, I suspect, all the others in which he competes before the end of August are all by way of preparation for the "Master Race," when Pirie tackles triple Olympic winner Emile Zatopek in the 5,000 metres—just over three miles—in the European Championships at Berne, Switzerland.

Pirie explained it this way: "I will have to be fitter than I've ever been in my life to beat Zatopek. I regard these shorter distance runs as all part of my training."

"If I compete in a six-mile race on a Saturday, it means cutting out all training on the preceding Thursday and Friday, on the day itself, of course, and on the following Sunday."

So I reckon we can anticipate more of these miles coming up and, I suspect, in the B.B. (Before Bannister) Era they would have been regarded as pretty good times.



Champion Gordon Pirie, hard pressed by P. Driver, wins the senior mile event in record time in the Surrey County A.A.A. championships at Motspur Park on Saturday.

Pirie's brilliant run in the Motspur Park mile was one of the highlights of the meeting. Pirie tried to drop his opponents, but by the end of the third lap had not managed to do so. He began to look a little anxious, for at this point young Brian Barrett, of Surrey A.C., took the lead.

An athlete similar in stature to Sydney Wooderson, he strode out round the last 440 yards and 220 from home it seemed possible that Pirie and P. Driver, of South London Harriers, who had come up with Barrett, would not succeed in catching him.

But Pirie still had plenty in reserve and he overtook Barrett on the last bend. The race was not won, however, for Driver then challenged Pirie, who only just held him off. Driver's time was a personal best of 4min. 10.8sec.



Not a 4-minute mile—but a county record for Gordon Pirie, winning the Surrey Championships' mile in 4min. 10.6sec. yesterday.



LOOKING AHEAD.—Wonder runner Gordon Pirie, a champion of the present, was with Gabrielle Arden, 3, of Hove, whose ability at King Alfred Baths suggests that she may be a swimming star of the future.



Passing Trafalgar-square (from left)—Gordon Pirie, Chris Chataway, C. R. Brasher and Roger Bannister.

## Bannister Runs Through the London Traffic

"Evening News" Reporter TWO of the world's fastest runners showed their paces in the London traffic to-day.

Sir Winston Churchill was the starter. And Roger Bannister, first man to run a mile in less than four minutes, and Gordon Pirie, the Olympic long-distance runner, were off to inspire a new record.

But this record would never make athletic history; a record of public generosity to save Britain's churches is the aim.

More than £600,000 is needed this year to repair historic churches, some of which were built before the reign of the first Elizabeth.

The runners did not go all-out on the formal cinder track of a sports stadium but nipped smartly along in the limelight of Whitehall followed by newsreel and television cameras.

Crowds cheered them, a few tried to keep up, but soon got left behind.

Bannister and Pirie were accompanied by Chris Chataway and C. W. Brasher, the Oxford Blues who paced Bannister in his record-breaking mile.

## Handshake

Crowds cheered Sir Winston when he appeared, smiling, at the door of No. 10 Downing-street to start the runners with a St. George's flag.

The Prime Minister shook hands with them and gave each an envelope containing a cheque for £500 to be delivered to four London churches as grants from the Historic Churches Trust, of which he is trustee.

But Bannister, Pirie, Chataway, and Brasher did not have far to go.

Keeping abreast they successfully negotiated Whitehall and moved into single-file round Trafalgar-square.

At St. Martin-in-the-Fields three M.P.s and an ex-M.P. were waiting in running kit to continue along the Strand and Fleet street.



Sir Winston Churchill shakes hands with Roger Bannister before the start from Downing-street.



# PIRIE BREAKS DOWN —IS CARRIED OFF

**E**CCENTRIC Gordon Pirie, the "I will run, I won't run" man, changed his mind again last night at the White City.

He did run after all—and was sensationally beaten.

With only 800 yards to go in defence of his six miles A.A.A. championship, Pirie, who had been passed every time he tried to take his usual lead, suddenly loped off the track.

He limped a few steps and then sat down on the grass, demonstrating pain.

## FINE BURST

By the time the crowd recovered from its astonishment at Pirie's unexpected retirement, leader Peter Driver, 20-year-old club-mate of Pirie's, had put in a magnificent finishing burst to improve his lead over Sando.

Driver, who, with Sando, was one of the few to keep his head in a curiously run race, went on to win. He was 20 yards ahead of Sando with Ken Norris a further 30 yards behind.

Pirie's decision to run, after his announced withdrawal owing to a bruise on his left foot, was made at the last minute. He announced to the championship secretary: "Don't rule me out yet. I'm going to try my foot out first and may still run."

Shortly afterwards it was

By  
**FRANK ROSTRON**

announced: "Pirie has tried his foot out at the back of the grandstand and finds he is able to run. I wish he had found this out earlier because our announcement that he would not run had spoiled the crowd."

Josef Kovacs, recent Hungarian conqueror of Zatopek, who was originally supposed to be Pirie's chief rival for the championship, had already decided to stay and rest in Budapest.

In the race itself Pirie gave no outward sign of his injury. Contrarily he strangely accepted the quaint, ill-judged challenges of a popular little jet-black visitor from Kenya, L. Phap-knowy, who kept sprinting past him to take the lead.

Finally, Pirie settled behind Frank Sando and, at two miles, the little Kenyan collapsed in agony with a pulled ligament. That was a minor sensation.

But spectators were dumb-founded when one and a half

miles later Pirie himself dropped out at the identical spot. But, at that point, it had already become plain that the usual Pirie victory was extremely doubtful.

If he had completed the remaining one and three-quarter laps he might have finished third—and would doubtless have received a sympathetic ovation.

"This has been worrying me since June 16," Pirie told me after he had been carried to the dressing room by John Savidge.

## 'TOO SLOW'

When I asked if the continual changes of pace and speed had worried him he said: "It was all ridiculously slow, much too slow."

Then when other reporters started questioning him, Pirie launched into a flood of invectives about "criticism of amateurs who get no money out of this."

In a hectic scene Pirie's father, Mr. Alex Pirie, bundled and hustled the Press out of the crowded dressing-room.

Pirie, by then in the shower and surrounded by a score of naked athletes, shouted: "Don't let them go. I can tell them what I think about them."



FRANK SANDO leading GORDON PIRIE, IAN BINNIE, PETER DRIVER and KEN NORRIS during the 6 Miles on the Friday. Driver won in 28min. 34.8secs. from Sando 28:38.2 and Norris 28:46.0.



CHEPKWONY (Kenya) leading GORDON PIRIE in the A.A.A. six miles

pyjamas, and unshaven after a restless night, opened the door. He was alone in the house and had hopped down the stairs on his one sound leg.

When he was back in bed, he told me: "I'm fed up and angry."

He pulled back the bedclothes and showed me the bruised left foot which had been the cause of all the trouble. The instep was angry and swollen.

## Lashed out

Then the 23-year-old Pirie lashed out at his critics. "I only went in for the six miles last night because people had been saying that I'd cracked up and lacked guts, that I was burned out."

"I'm no quitter. I don't give in until it gets to the stage when I'm forced to. But I was in pain before the race and it got worse every time I put my foot on the ground. Whenever I speeded up my foot felt as if it was being ruptured."

"If I had finished I could have crippled myself completely—and it's bad enough now."

Of suggestions that premature announcement of his absence had cut attendance at the White City, Pirie said: "What has that got to do with it? I'm an amateur."

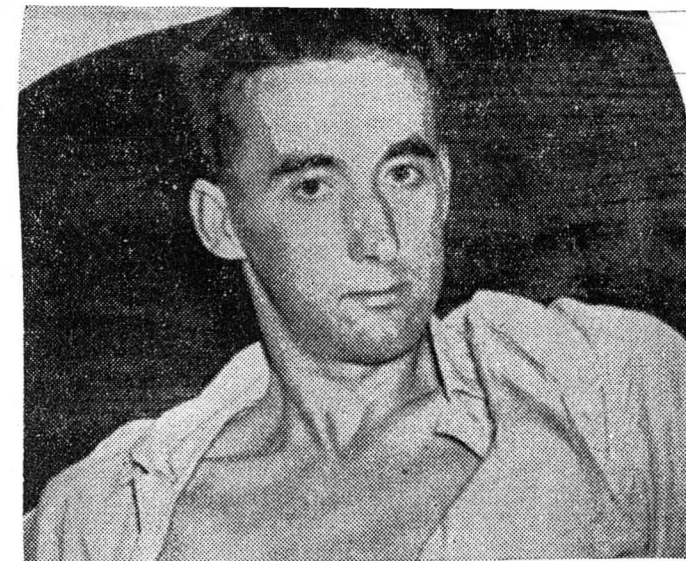
Pirie's foot injury was caused by a pair of German "warming up" shoes sent to him by his German coach, Waldemar Gerschler.

## Dug in

"I normally take size 10," he said. "But these were too big. To stop them slipping I tied the laces too tight. They must have dug into my instep during my usual three-four hours' daily practice spell."

At the moment Pirie is doubtful whether he will be fit in time to meet his great Czech rival, Emil Zatopek, in the European Games at Berne next month. "That is if I'm picked anyway," he said wryly.

But Pirie's last words to me as he lay back in bed were: "I'll be back. Then they'll see..."



'I'LL BE BACK' SAID GORDON PIRIE—IN BED YESTERDAY

## 'I'M NO QUITTER'

PIRIE, the man who wasn't there, talks to the Sunday Express

# I pay 5s. to hear public shout 'Sit down!'

I HAVE endured a week-end of criticism... criticism of my last-minute decision to run in the A.A.A. championships, criticism of my retirement during the race, criticism of my dust-up with the Press after the race.

It's too much. The thing people forget is I am not a paid performer. I run for enjoyment, not to provide the public with entertainment.

Running is my hobby. I give up lots of things for it. I do that cheerfully because I like running.

## MY DUTY

I know I have a duty to the public, and I know precisely what it is. It is: 1. To train myself so well that every time I run I'm at peak form; 2. To do my utmost to raise British prestige in athletics.

That's my duty, and I try faithfully to carry it out despite constant irritations from Press and public.

The public howl because I didn't tell anybody I was going to run at White City until half an hour before the race. Why, I didn't know myself! An athlete, especially one with a suspect foot, has many points to consider.

So I endure the howls and go out for a warm-up—I like to warm up for at least half an hour before every race, for I'm as nervous and highly

By  
**GORDON PIRIE**  
(in an interview)

strung as a racehorse before the tapes go up.

During the warm-up I like to be alone to concentrate on race tactics and gain mental poise for the race.

At White City there is only one place for a warm-up... the centre of the track. I jog up and down and immediately comes a roar from the crowd: "Sit down in the centre!"

Sit down, indeed. I've had to pay 5s., my entrance fee for the meeting, to come into the track. Most of the crowd have paid 2s. 6d. And THEY'RE telling ME to sit down.

There's only one thing to do—run around under the stand, jostled hither and thither by people who don't give a hang for Gordon Pirie except when he's on the track, and then only if he's first past the tape.

Swarms of small boys want autographs on books, pictures, any old thing... all this while you're preparing for a big race. It's impossible!

## IRRITATING

Another irritation—why can't each athlete know his time for the race? We all want to know our time, but if you're not in the first three or four you can go and whistle for it.

"Too busy to take every time and

announce it," say some officials. A Battersea recently some youngsters wanted to know their time and I went up to the timekeeper on their behalf. Same reply "Too busy"—too busy making an announcement about a lost brooch.

It's not my intention to criticise officials. Many spend more time and more money than athletes on putting the sport over. But one or two can spoil things.

And why do newspapermen write these rabble-rousing articles that tear an athlete apart? You never find it on the Continent. There they concentrate entirely on the race and the result.

Indeed, if anyone was to fall out during the race there would be barely a mention.

## I'LL TALK...

I'm always willing to talk to newspapermen, but allow me one favour—the conversation must be in my own good time, and that means not just before a race or just after when a thousand thoughts are racing through my mind and I can't concentrate on searching questions.

I know many people call me a fool for running in the six-miles A.A.A. race. I'm not afraid of criticism, but here's my reply:—

I've been fighting this left foot injury of mine too long, trying vainly to train and keep fit when it was impossible.

I decided at the last minute to give it a racing test, and now I have to rest absolutely and completely.

My three hours' run nightly routine is out for at least a fortnight while this foot heals, but, of course, nobody can say how long an injury will take to heal.

I hope you'll see my viewpoint. We athletes are hard-working chaps who run for fun. Don't treat us like professionals.



—FOR 1955

## But 5,000 metres is his limit

By ROY MOOR

**G**ORDON PIRIE, his dreams of meeting Emil Zatopek in the European championships ended by a broken bone in his left foot, has planned his racing future right through to the end of next season.

"I shall return to cross country running in the winter and next summer keep my races to distances inside 5,000 metres" he told me yesterday.

So look out for Pirie as a miler—a formidable one, too, judging by the way he beat America's Wes Santee in 4min. 6.8sec. last summer.

Meanwhile the British record-holder is hopping mad, not only because his foot has let him down just as he was approaching peak fitness for his clash with Zatopek, but because of suggestions made that he is playing the leading role in a big sham.

### Another X-ray

"Why do folk want to think I'm putting on a big act when I am so completely miserable at not being able to run?" asked Pirie. "The X-ray has clearly shown that the bone is broken and I'll be having another X-ray examination in a few days."

Pirie made it quite clear to me that once he can put his injured foot to the ground again he will be training harder than ever.

And I read into his expression, a desire to prove a thing or two to those who have criticised him since he dropped out of the national six miles championship race a fortnight ago.

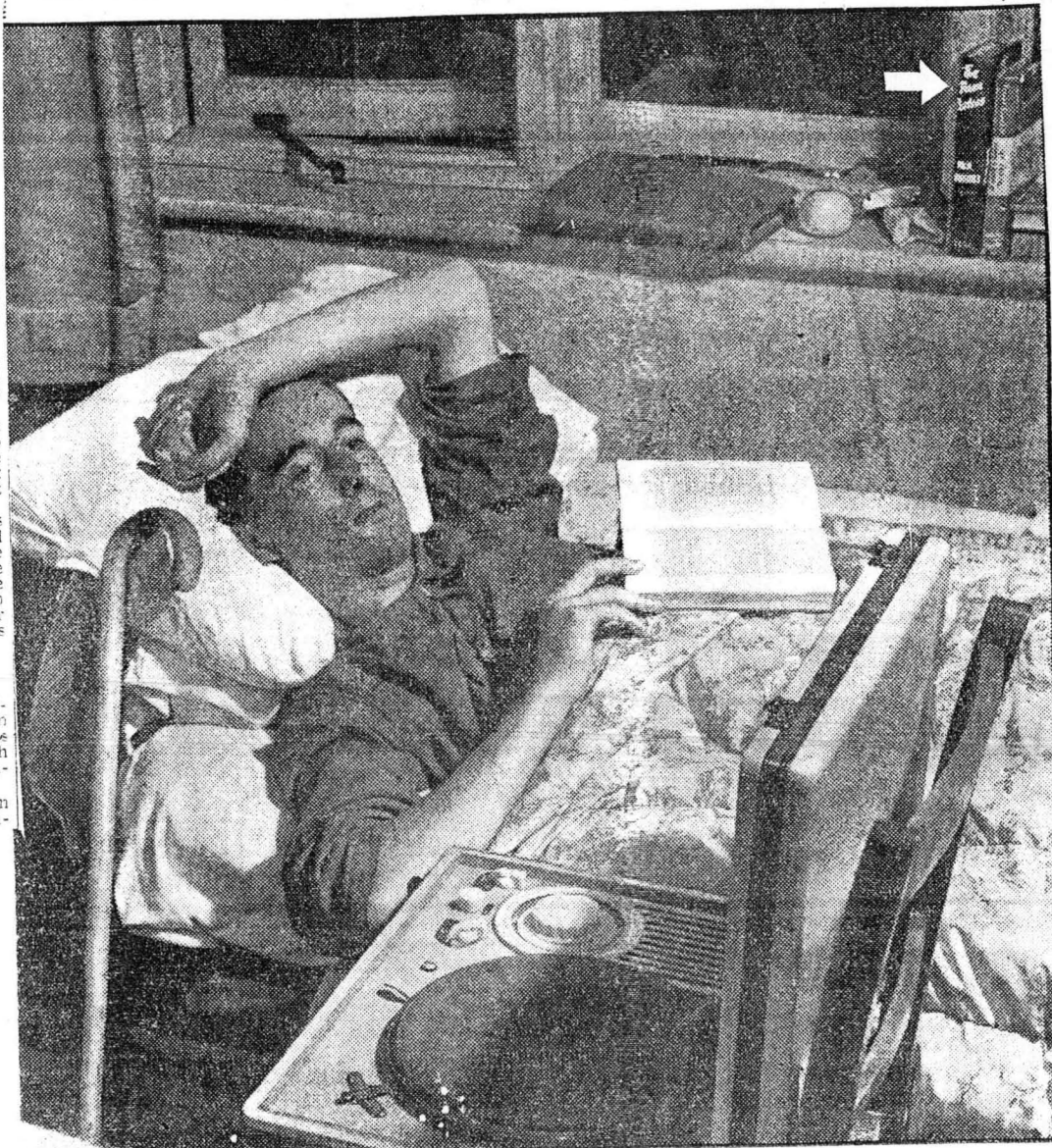
Whether he aims to prove he has the beating of Peter Driver and Frank Sando over six miles or the world record-breakers Freddie Green and Chris Chataway at three miles I do not know. He may even harbour a wish to beat some of our leading milers before the season is out.

### Post haste

I'd wager this much. When Puff-Puff Pirie starts a-puffing again in competition he will show a mercurial pace that will add an unusual touch of brightness to the end of the track-racing year.

Pirie spent Saturday afternoon watching the Civil Service championships at Motspur Park.

## Look out Zatopek, I'll be back!



His friends will soon be going to Berne for the European Games. He would have been there, too, but for an injured foot which keeps him in bed or forces him to hop with a stick. But he's a fighter and books like

"The Dam Busters" (arrowed) keep his spirit up. As soon as that broken bone mends he'll be running again. Then look out for the name of Britain's six-mile record-buster—GORDON PIRIE

## PIRIE MISSES RACE AGAINST ZATOPEK

By ROY MOOR

**G**ORDON PIRIE yesterday wrote to Emil Zatopek: "Dear Emil," he said, "I am sorry to say I shall not be meeting you in the European championships after all..."

Later in the day Pirie visited a London specialist for another examination of his injured foot.

"I have now given up all hope of getting into Britain's team for Berne," the British record-holder told me.

"It will be quite a fortnight before I can run on the foot again and then I would need six weeks' hard training to get back into top form. So I've given up all ideas of racing in the European champion-

because my foot was still so badly swollen."

### Pirie Decides

**M**Y picture shows Gordon Pirie, who has been absent from competition for eleven weeks owing to a foot injury, training again at White City.



Pirie has decided he is not yet quite ready for competition so will not run at either of the two remaining floodlit track meetings—in Birmingham on Saturday and the London v Moscow match at White City on October 13.

I fancy we shall see Pirie racing again for his club, South London Harriers, during the cross-country season, and maybe defending his National championship.

This has seemed a strange season without Pirie chasing the records. But at 24 the 1955 season should be a great one for him. The world six miles record and the British two and three miles records, taken from him during his absence, will be his targets.



Three thousand people watched the presentation to Gordon Pirie, of the Helms Award, as the outstanding sportsman in Europe for 1953. The presentation was made by Mr. Jack Crump, British Team Manager, who mentioned that it was the first occasion on which one of these trophies had come to Britain.



Gordon Pirie (left, presents the individual two-mile award to M. R. Schofield (Polytechnic). Schofield tied for first place with team-mates Ralph Dunkley (second from left) and Tom Hulatt. So they tossed for the winner's prize.

## PIRIE PLANS RECORD ATTEMPT



Gordon Pirie (pictured at plans to attack the world six miles or one hour record when he returns to athletic Pirie, who hopes to be back training within a few days, broke a bone in his foot accepted an invitation from Walton Athletic Club to the attack in a 15-mile trial at their Stompond Lane ground in October.

He has told the club that he will definitely run (a) if fit and (b) if he is in the country at the time.

The race is likely to be held on Saturday morning, October 16 or 23, when he should be back from his holiday.

Walton must hold the event on a Saturday morning as ground is used in the afternoon by the Walton and Hershaw ball club.

### British record

Pirie still holds the British record for six miles and the world record times for distance or to set a new record would no doubt be a compensation for missing the European Games and a battle with Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia.

Both these records are 12 miles 8.4sec. In the Czech runner, who ran 12 miles 8.4sec. in 1951 and did 12 miles 8.10 yard in 1952, he was three years ago.



A Miles Special Event, 1954.

LONDON v Moscow.

White City, 1944.

3 miles Kuts, 1954.

Northern Counties v Moscow.

MANCHESTER, 1954.

Two Miles Special Event: 1. D. A. G. Pirie (South London), 8min. 54.8sec.; 2. M. Maynard (Horne Hill); 3. W. P. Rager (Eastbourne R.); 4. M. Schofield (Poly).



GORDON PIRIE.

Gordon Pirie made a brilliant return to competitive athletics by winning the two miles invitation event in 8min 54.8sec. He showed no sign of the foot injury which has kept him out of athletics for the last three months.

Moscow won the men's match by 103 points to 57 and the women's by 56-32.



Gordon Pirie congratulating Chris Chataway after his great victory over Kuts



Mr. Sergi Pushinov, chairman of the Athletic Commission of the Moscow Sports Council, speaks as the two teams line up before the athletics march between Moscow and the North at the White City, Manchester, this afternoon.

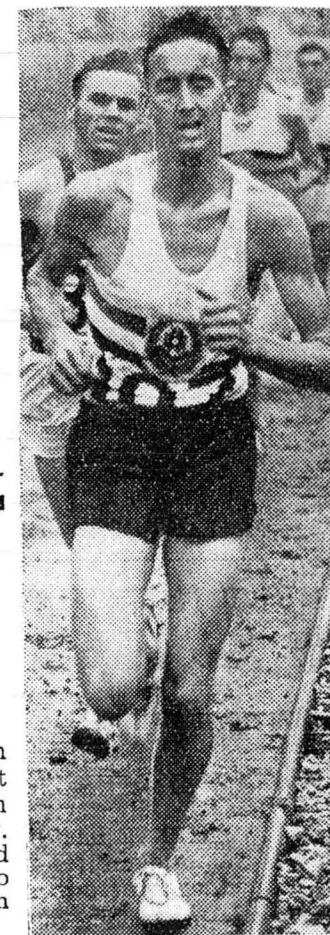
## SUPERB PIRIE LEFT RUSSIANS BEHIND

By GERRY LOFTUS

**P**UFF-PUFF Gordon Pirie, with a superb run in torrential rain, smashed his Russian opponents out of the three miles in the Northern Counties athletics match against Moscow at the White City (Manchester) yesterday.

This was the old relentless Pirie, completely recovered from injury. In front from the start, he was determined to stay there. And as the race went on so did his lead widen over A. Anufriyev, first string in place of Vladimir Kuts.

When the bell for the last lap went, Pirie set off in a tremendous sprint, winning by 120yd. in 13min. 53sec., then he swapped hats with his Russian runner-up.



It's no fun for Pirie as he piles on the pace at the beginning of the 3-mile race with a Russian on his heels. But he didn't let it stay that way.



# Inner Counties Junior Championship 1954



And what of Pirie—the Iron Englishman? Gordon could only clock 13mins. 47.4secs. in his attempt on the three-mile world record. This is 15 seconds outside Gundar Haegg's time of 13mins. 32.4secs.

It is also 11 seconds slower than Pirie's own British all-comers record set up last August.

"Puff Puff," as long and lean as ever, won by 30 yards from Frank Sando, who was second in 13mins. 56.2secs.

What went wrong? Pirie told me afterwards, the sweat pouring off his face: "I'm not fit yet. I did the first mile too fast, and the second mile too slow. The track was terrible."

I asked him: "Are you stale or jaded?" "Certainly not," said Pirie. "I am very pleased with my time at this stage of my preparation."

## Satisfied

He added that he was perfectly satisfied with his training. He said: "The most important thing in running the three miles is judgment."

"There were 29 men in the race. My first job was to get out of their way. Naturally that makes for a slower time."

By my watch, Pirie did the first mile in 4mins. 22secs., which is eight seconds faster than Haegg's time over the same distance. But Pirie was 1.8 seconds behind Haegg at the two miles and he got slower and slower.

Pirie added: "I am training for Zatopek and the European Games in Berne. That is the time that matters."

YES, IT'S PUFF-PUFF  
—BUT NO RECORD



Lady Lienhop, wife of Sir John Lienhop, Agent-General for Victoria, Australia, presents the challenge cup to Gordon Pirie, British Games winner of the inter-counties three miles.

LLOYDS BANK SPORTS

BECKENHAM

1954



## Pirie's Climb

ALMOST overlooked in the recording of Gordon Pirie's magnificent 4min. 5.2sec. mile run on Saturday, was the fact that during the race he had to climb 56ft—twice the height of the average house.

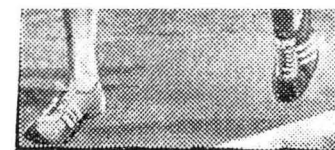
The New Beckenham grass track is at the foot of a natural bowl, and is so sited that the back straight is 14ft higher than the home straight.

It is difficult to assess the true worth of the performance of Pirie and Brian Hewson, who was only a yard behind, but it certainly strengthens Britain's position as the premier middle-distance running nation in the world.

## Ideal Line-Up

EARLIER last week I was able to tell you of Pirie's intention to run a fast mile at New Beckenham. My confidence in his ability to make good his promise was not misplaced.

Gordon Pirie winning the open mile at the Lloyds' Bank Sports at New Beckenham, on Saturday from Brian Hewson. Pirie's time of 4 mins. 5.2 secs., is the fastest on grass, and put him second to Roger Bannister for the world record until it was broken at the weekend. Both Pirie and Hewson broke the 18-year-old record set up by Sydney Wooderson.



GORDON PIRIE has a foot in a jury which might prove to be a cracked bone. He has had to stop all training and is being X-rayed at St. James's Hospital, Balham, to-day.

"I first noticed a pain over an instep on Tuesday of last week, which I put down to the fact that I might have tied the laces of my track shoes too tight," Gordon told me.

"I had to stop training towards the end of last week, but I managed to run a mile on grass in 4min. 5.2sec., although in some pain. I hoped the trouble would right itself, but when I started training again on Sunday a big lump came up on the foot."

Gordon has not done any training since Monday. He is due to run either a mile or three miles for his club, South London Harriers, in the Polytechnic Kinnaird meeting at Chiswick on Saturday, but all he would say to-day was: "My chances of running don't seem very good."

## Pirie Gets Going

GORDON PIRIE is already back on his spartan training schedule after his recent foot injury.

He has been out training for his next big race over six miles at the White City Stadium on July 9 against the 27-years-old Hungarian Jozsef Kovacs (pronounced Kovarch), who is ranked No 3 in the world.

Pirie thinks that against such opposition he may be able to close the 20-second gap which still separates him as history's second fastest six-miler from Zatopek's world record of 27 mins 59.2 secs.

The man who helped Pirie get back into training so quickly is Mr Mick Mayes, of Mitcham, honorary masseur to the AAA.

"Mick soon put his finger on the trouble. It was a badly-bruised tendon," said Pirie. "I shall take greater care in future about not tying up my shoe-strings too tightly before my training spins."



GORDON PIRIE leading the 3 miles field, Whitsun British Games, 1954. He won in 13 min. 47.4 sec.



From DESMOND HACKETT: Brussels, Sunday

**G**ORDON PIRIE of England, the old, gay galloping Gordon, left Europe's best cross-country runners gasping helplessly as he won all the way in the "Test of the Aces" race over a punishing course of nearly seven miles.

Pirie won in 35 minutes 56 seconds from Jozsef Kovacs of Hungary (36 minutes 9 seconds), and Franjo Mihalic of Yugoslavia (36 minutes, 29 seconds).

Hungary had sent a team of crack runners headed by Kovacs, conqueror of Emil Zatopek. Yugoslavia had a specially prepared outfit, including formidable Mihalic, last year's winner. Finland, home of the marathon men, had been training six months for this one event.

But when it was over not one of these marathon men saw what I saw—the red rose of England on the front of Pirie's vest. All they saw from the start was the slim back of Pirie.

I was the only English reporter to make the trip and see the thrilling picture of Pirie of England coming through a triumphant avenue of 10,000 wildly-cheering Belgians, a superb winner.

I heard too the sweet music of another 10,000 lining the course, cheering an English success.

In the determined, defiant mind of Gordon Pirie this race was won even before the teams marched out under the flags of their nations.

Pirie had seen that the official programme rated him third favourite behind Kovacs and Mihalic. Pirie muttered with that cold anger which makes him such a tremendous competitor: "That will be put right."

### POWERFUL START

Pirie shot powerfully into the lead as soon as the off was signalled. He was 50 yards ahead as the runners swept into the country for the first of four laps.

The loudspeaker commentary became a record of Pirie's progress as his long, thin legs efficiently erased the miles between him and success.

Kovacs, startled by Pirie's blasting burst, scurried desperately after him, and as the runners passed the grandstand for the first time Kovacs was tucked in behind the British boy.

At the end of the second lap Pirie was 30 yards clear of Kovacs and the rest staggered breathlessly behind. This was the old puff-puff Pirie.

Out again into the country over the black treacle patch of a ploughed field and through the narrow avenue of leafless trees.

Lap three ended with Pirie 50 yards in front, striding magnificently, his eyes raised in a George Robey expression of surprise.

Kovacs, 5ft. 2ins., and a foot smaller than Pirie, was running like a man in a nightmare. His teeth were bared with fighting effort, his large, balding head bent with exhaustion. Mihalic was trailing wearily a hundred yards adrift.

### OH! SO ANGRY

Pirie was now an angry runner. Out in the country he had heard the contemptuous crie: "Il est mort." (He is dead.) He looked round at the speaker and went into a defiant spurt that was the end of the race as a competition.

I stood behind the tape aglow with pride as Pirie, his head bobbing from side to side, came home alone at sprint pace.

The England team, officially rated outsiders on the programme, finished joint second with Yugoslavia. Finland were first.

Peter Driver, his face pallid and wet with foam, finished fifth.

Sheffield's Ken Wood had run in short spikes which found no hold on the thawing ground. Four times he fell before he finished, bruised, in 32nd place.

Even more downcast was brewery official Eddie Hardy from Burton, who finished No. 19. He said: "For the third time in my life I got a stitch."

Said Pirie: "I shall carry on running as I have always done. I shall just run to win, and if records come—well, all the better."

This was the Pirie who was carried from the A.A.A. meeting last July with a damaged foot which his doctor told him was one of the worst he had seen. He advised Pirie to rest for six months. Pirie told me then: "We shall see." Today, by glory, we saw.



Pirie finishes—alone. His nearest rival, Kovacs, was thirteen seconds behind.



The race is over, and Gordon Pirie wears his warming-down cap and track suit as he gives a handshake to Franjo Mihalic, of Yugoslavia, who was third. That cap comes from Moscow. Pirie was given it by a Russian athlete during the London-Moscow match last month.



Après l'arrivée, le Hongrois Kovacs félicite Gordon Pirie qui l'a devancé de 14 secondes.



A mi-course, l'Anglais Pirie lâche définitivement son plus dangereux adversaire, le Hongrois Kovacs, et s'en va nettement détaché.





## PIRIE PLANS ATTACK ON RECORD

FREIBURG, Sunday.  
GORDON PIRIE, British runner, said here today that he plans to attack Emil Zatopek's 10,000-metre record next summer.

The 23-year-old runner arrived here on Friday for five days' hard training with his German coach, Woldemar Gerschler.

Pirie broke a foot bone last summer and has done little competitive running since.

### Twenty sprints

Gerschler would not comment on Pirie's plan to attack the record, but he said: "Our long-range training programme is aimed at the 1956 Olympic Games, in Melbourne. I hope Gordon will have more luck than he had this year."

Pirie ran the 200 metres 20 times today. Yesterday he did four 1,200-metre runs, and on Friday 18 400-metre runs. He leaves for Basle on Wednesday, and will fly from there to London.

Pirie, who has a detailed training plan for the winter, said he has full confidence in the German coach's methods.—

## Watch Pirie outpace them all

A PEEP into the crystal ball of athletics reveals tremendous competition to be Sportsman of the Year.

Chris Chataway, Gordon Pirie and Derek Johnson — all show form surpassing their previous greatness and records topple like ninepins before their onslaughts.



The indefatigable PIRIE gets my verdict because of fantastic achievements at cross-country running as well as on the track.

There is no sign that Pirie and Chataway will clash to prove who is the greater runner.

But the crystal shows that Pirie's achievements will include the world's fastest 10,000 metres.

SURREY CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP, COULSDON, 1953.



## A different race, but the same story

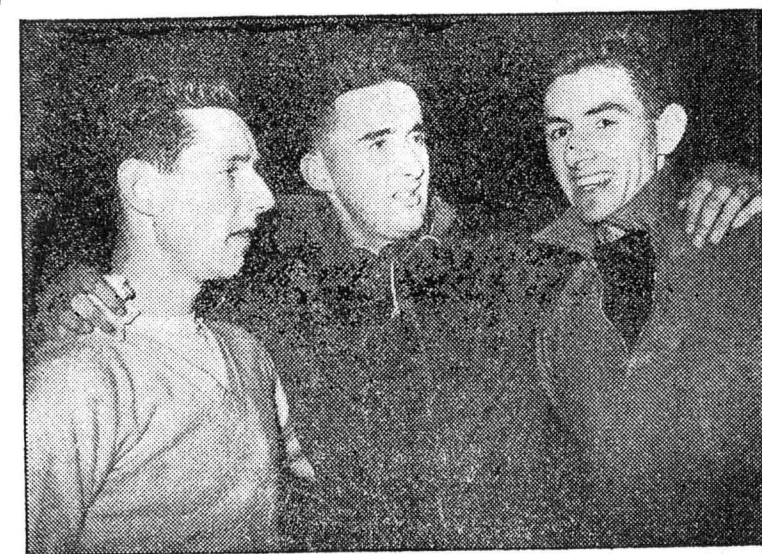
IT'S A FAMILIAR SIGHT, Coulsdon's Gordon Pirie running in first. This picture, taken on Saturday, shows Pirie winning the Surrey cross-country championship at Coulsdon.

Second man home was Mike Maynard (Herne Hill Harriers), with Pirie's club mate at South London Harriers, Peter Driver, third. Times for the 7½-mile

course: Pirie 41-min. 20-sec., Maynard 41-min. 40-sec., Driver 41-min. 53-sec.

With Peter Pirie coming fifth, M. W. Firth ninth, J. R. Humphreys eleventh, and C. Wilson sixteenth, South London Harriers won the Surrey team title for the third successive year. Their total of 45 points was too good for Belgrave Harriers' 105 and Herne Hill Harriers' 129.

Eamonn Andrews (below, left), exchanges sporting stories with Gordon Pirie, Britain's Sportsman of 1953



AND HERE IS PIRIE after the race with his nearest challengers Peter Driver and Mike Maynard.



BRAINE L'ALLEUD, Belgium,

Sunday.

**ANGRY** Belgian athletics fans left an international cross-country race here today asking: "Why was Gordon Pirie not running?"

The crowd of 5,000, from all over Belgium, faced snow and icy temperatures to witness an advertised duel between Gordon and world record-holder Gaston Reiff, of Belgium, over a 12-kilometre course.

Before the race Reiff announced he was not running. He was annoyed that he and Gordon had been named as competitors.

He said: "Gordon was invited, but told us weeks ago he could not come. His brother, Peter, accepted."

The change in the line-up was not announced to the public. Many left the race believing it was Gordon when it was, in fact, Peter Pirie who finished seventh.

The race was won by Frans Herman, of Belgium, in 35min. 50sec. Britain's Peter Driver was second 28 seconds later. Colin Wilson, of Britain, was tenth.—

inaugurated the race in 1939 on frozen parkland, are similar to those at York two years ago when Gordon Pirie was the first home.

Pirie, one of the early arrivals this afternoon, at once went for a spin in Childwall Park and did not find the going severe. Indeed, the conditions when the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Ald. Griffin) starts the race at 2.30 are likely to be those which any cross-country runner should expect to find at this time of year.

Pirie is obviously in grand shape and he intends that Surrey shall wrest from Lancashire THE DAILY TELEGRAPH Cup which they have won for five of the last six years.

He forwent a race in Brussels last week-end to concentrate on this event and I think he will carry out his intention of getting first place for Surrey. But he told me on the journey from London that he fancies the Brighton runner, H. V. Foord, may create a surprise.

Not only Pirie, but the whole of the Surrey team are confident that this is their year. Lancashire are no less confident they can hold off the Surrey challenge, but an impartial assessment finds that six counties have about equal prospects of success. Yorkshire, Middlesex, Essex and Kent are all sure to be in at the kill.

By JACK CRUMP

**K**EN NORRIS, of Middlesex, who so convincingly won a year ago at Epsom, put up one of his finest performances when retaining the individual inter-counties cross-country title at Childwall Park, Liverpool, on Saturday in conditions which were simply atrocious, even for this hardy winter sport. Norris's victory was a wonderful display of courage, dogged determination and speed.

Heavy overnight frost froze the snow on top of already iron-hard going, and more snow fell all morning, making conditions even worse. So bad were they that many of this select field of runners were unwilling to start, and the Surrey star, M. R. Maynard, withdrew at the last minute, a completely justifiable decision as he is recovering from a slight foot injury.

Officials, realising conditions to be bordering on the dangerous, made a last-minute change of course, shortening it by several hundred yards. However, the fact that the race was held and that 249 of the 276 starters completed the course is a tribute to the keenness and team spirit of the competitors.

Although the circumstances were so depressing, the fight for individual and team honours was close and exciting, and the individual placings a minor surprise.

### PIRIE LEADS

#### But Norris Holds On

When the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Ald. Griffin) sent the competitors away a cold rain began. Gordon Pirie, as usual, got straight into the lead, but Ken Norris and the local Liverpool runner Ken Gates never allowed him to get away.

At the end of the first mile Norris had caught up with Pirie, who, running in short spikes, was having difficulty in keeping his footing, and clearly not relishing the going.

Norris and Pirie contested the lead over the first of the large two-mile laps, with Norris looking the more confident. The race between the two leaders continued until one mile from the finish.

Then Norris applied the pressure and Pirie, whose legs had been bruised by his constant slipping on the frozen ruts, weakened.

Norris went on to win in 37min 34sec, and four other runners all passed Pirie in the final three-quarters of a mile.

Gates, who had run almost as commendably as the winner, took second place 50 yards behind, and the same distance separated him from E. L. Hardy (Derbyshire), who was third.

Caulder, after a splendid run, hurt his ankle in the last furlong and had to concede ground not only to Hardy but to D. Walker (Yorkshire), who thus wrested fourth place from the young Surrey runner. Pirie seemed content to wait for his team-mate, R. Stonehouse, and they crossed the line together equal sixth.

Frank Sando (Kent), who, like Gordon Pirie, was unsuitably shod for the occasion, was never prominent and finished way back 81st.

### ARTIFICIAL RACING

#### No Reputations Lost

The backward placings of other stars revealed the artificial nature of the racing. In such conditions it is fair to say that no one, even Pirie, whom everybody expected to win comfortably, lost reputation.

Yet it is equally true that some runners, notably Gates, Caulder, Stonehouse and Foord (Sussex), established themselves by their splendid achievement of finishing in the first dozen. Notable, too, was the forward running of Kirkup of Yorkshire and Booker (Berkshire).

If the individual race was exciting, so, indeed, was the team contest.

Surrey and Yorkshire battled it out magnificently. At the half way stage they were level with 89 points each, but in the final lap the young Surrey men gained several places.

#### FIRST WIN SINCE 1939

With three men in the first seven and five in the first 16, and with team captain Peter Pirie holding on to 30th place, Surrey scored a notable victory, their first since 1939. They had an aggregate of 75 points to Yorkshire's 99.

Middlesex ran well to take third place from Lancashire, who, with a full team and on their own country, were disappointing.

Noteworthy were the performances of Sussex and Northumberland and Durham, who well defeated more fancied counties to finish fifth and sixth.

The Joe Turner memorial trophy and medals for the team showing the most improvement on previous years deservedly went to Gloucester, but it was a close thing between them and Hampshire.

38-7, 4: K. Caulder (Surrey) 38-10, 5: D. A. G. Pirie (Surrey), R. Stonehouse (Surrey) 38-24, 6: R. Hutton (Staffs) 38-27, 7: E. Kirkup (Yorks) 38-28, 9: H. V. Foord (Sussex) 38-29, 10: P. Driver (Surrey) 38-30, 11: G. T. Olding (Middlesex) 38-32, 12: A. Perkins (Essex) 38-35, 13: W. P. Ranger (Sussex) 38-37, 14: J. P. Lake (Warwickshire) 38-38, 15: B. T. Barrett (Surrey) 38-40, 16: R. Poxon (Northumberland and Durham) 38-41, 17: J. Salt (Lancs) 38-42, 18: P. Wood (Yorks) 38-45, 19: A. Cholton (Yorks) 38-46, 20.

#### TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Surrey (5, 6, 7, 11, 16, 30—75 pts), 1: Yorkshire (4, 9, 19, 20, 22, 25—99), 2: Middlesex (1, 12, 23, 24, 34, 44—138), 3: Lancashire (2, 18, 33, 37, 38, 41—169), 4: Sussex (10, 14, 27, 48, 51, 57—207), 5: Northumberland & Durham (17, 29, 32, 46,



ON THE LAST LAP. Gordon Pirie leads Ken Norris as they come through the Childwall Lane tunnel for the third time in the County Cross-Country Championship at Liverpool.



**RUNAWAY**

# ENGLAND RUNNERS

1, 2, 3

MEZIDON, Normandy, Sunday.—England . . . England . . . England was the wonderful signal run up this afternoon as Gordon Pirie, Peter Driver, and Ken Norris came in 1, 2, 3 against the best cross-country runners in the world.

It was that way from the first lap of the soggy six miles 300 yards trek.

And the crack teams of Yugoslavia, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, and Algeria gasped, groaned, and finally broke under the relentless pace of the English team.



But it was Pirie the thousands who lined the course enthused over. It was Pirie first and the rest fighting hopelessly.

The thin man of sport was 50 yards in front as he came loping easily around the football pitch after the first lap. Ah, Pirie, Pirie! chanted the ecstatic crowd.

Pirie, head rolling from side to side, the famous puff-puff gasps of breath sending tiny white clouds into the crisp, clear air, might have been running all alone.

Right behind him came Norris and Driver, running shoulder to shoulder and running so easily. It was a glorious sight to see, the white vests with the red rose crest of England strung out so bravely—1, 2, 3.

The challengers, Franz Mihallic, conqueror of Emil Zatopek, and Belgium's ace Marcel Van de Wattyne, were already looking grim, taut-faced, and anxious.

MEZIDON, FRANCE.  
1955.

It was like the thrill of seeing your favourite picture again and again as the runners came in lap after lap, always England, England, England.

Peerless Pirie was the length of the Soccer pitch in front after the second lap. Boyish-looking Ken Norris had fallen heavily at a water jump but he was still shoulder to shoulder with Driver.

Out in the country, Van de Wattyne made a gamble of a challenge. He burst past the two good companions, Driver and Norris, and took a 10 yards lead.

Driver and Norris looked at each other, nodded, turned on a big effort and heard Van de Wattyne groan as they went past him.

The last lap was a tour of triumph for Pirie. The thousands who had left their farms and cottages to line the khaki-muddled course cheered and chorused Pirie, Pirie, as he came in with distance-killing stride.



Runners Pirie had lapped stood still and shouted him on. Even at the last Pirie kept to his slogan: No one passes Pirie.

A man Pirie had lapped attempted to re-pass but galloping, gallant Pirie threw back his head and sprinted away as the cheers rose in salute of this last defiance.

One hundred and fifty yards behind Driver and Norris were fighting out this all-England finish for second place. It was a tall, scarlet-faced Driver who made the deciding burst and then it was England—1, 2, 3.

Van de Wattyne gasped after the race: "It was too much. These English—the best in the world."

Mihallic, white-faced, exhausted and disappointed, muttered "At Brussels I ran against Pirie and was murdered. This day there were three killers."

Killer Pirie's only comment: "I enjoyed the race. It was a jolly good run. I felt fresher after three laps than I did at the start."

Pirie, 32mins 48secs, 1; Driver, 33-2, 2; Norris, 33-5, 3; M Van de Wattyne (Belgium), 33-23, 4; F Mihallic (Yugoslavia), 33-38, 5; L Theys (Belgium), 33-41, 6; W Boak (Britain), 17th. Team event: Britain 1; Yugoslavia 2; Belgium 3.



En tête après 400 m. de course, Gordon Pirie ne fut jamais inquiété. On remarquera son aisance.



Le classique cross de Mézidon a obtenu un succès sans précédent: plus de 4.000 spectateurs ont applaudi les meilleurs spécialistes européens de course à travers la campagne. Sur le terrain de football de la municipalité, le départ de la catégorie senior vient d'être donné à plusieurs centaines de concurrents.

# beats the world

From DESMOND HACKETT: Hannut, Belgium, Sunday

ENGLAND again landed the old knock-out 1, 2, 3, in the cross-country international this afternoon when the crack runners of the world fought, faded, and finally broke before the power-paced Englishmen who finished: 1, Gordon Pirie; 2, Frank Sando; 3, Ken Norris.

Tucked in behind the surviving challengers and finishing seventh and eighth were two English recruits running in their first international—22-year-old R.A.F. man Ken Caulders and Ken Gates, 26-year-old wisp of determination from Liverpool.

This day once again belonged to Gordon Pirie, the inscrutable thin man of athletics, that implacable machine who breaks the hearts of those who try to challenge his slogan: Who comes after Pirie?

It broke completely the spirit of reigning world cross-country champion Franjo Mihallic, the conqueror of Emil Zatopek.

Mihallic's challenge to Pirie over the near nine-mile course lasted three minutes—just long enough for the trusting shoulders of Pirie to beat off the company of lesser athletes and stretch out into a lead that grew longer as the race continued.

## ALOOF, ALONE

After four one-mile laps you could see the slim, long-striding figure of Pirie dramatically outlined against the grey, brooding clouds and the flat lands which stretch out into the horizon.

There was Pirie, so magnificently aloof, alone, untouchable as the greatest cross-country runner in the world.

So Mihallic and the Belgian aces Marcel Van de Wattyne and Franz Herman, turned their bitter disappointment against the English pair Frank Sando and Ken Norris.

For the first four laps Mihallic and the Belgians dug themselves in with Norris and Sando. Then Sando called to Norris: "Shall we step out?" Norris, gasping, gallantly called back: "Yes, let's." They moved away and left the Continentals behind.

And all the time there was a grand one-man parade by Pirie lapping runner after runner. Pirie with his head bobbing, his famous puff-puff style being greeted by ecstatic chants of "Pirie, Pirie, Pirie."

## SHARED GLORY

By the sixth lap Norris and Sando were sharing in Pirie's glory as Mihallic and the Belgians trailed behind after seven miles across cloggy, energy-straining, khaki clay. The race belonged to England. Pirie moved smoothly to a win that left the rest of the field 28 seconds behind.

Sando casually murmured to Norris: "Let us run in together and you go ahead at the finish." Norris shouted back: "You go ahead, Frank, you're running much more strongly."

And so Sando, moving with ease while others laboured, went into second place. That is just how easily these English aces of cross-country were able to organise a race among themselves.

The Belgian Van de Wattyne won a sprint finish for fourth place. Mihallic was sixth, a shattered man who angrily refused to be photographed with the English team.

## 'ENOUGH OF HIM'

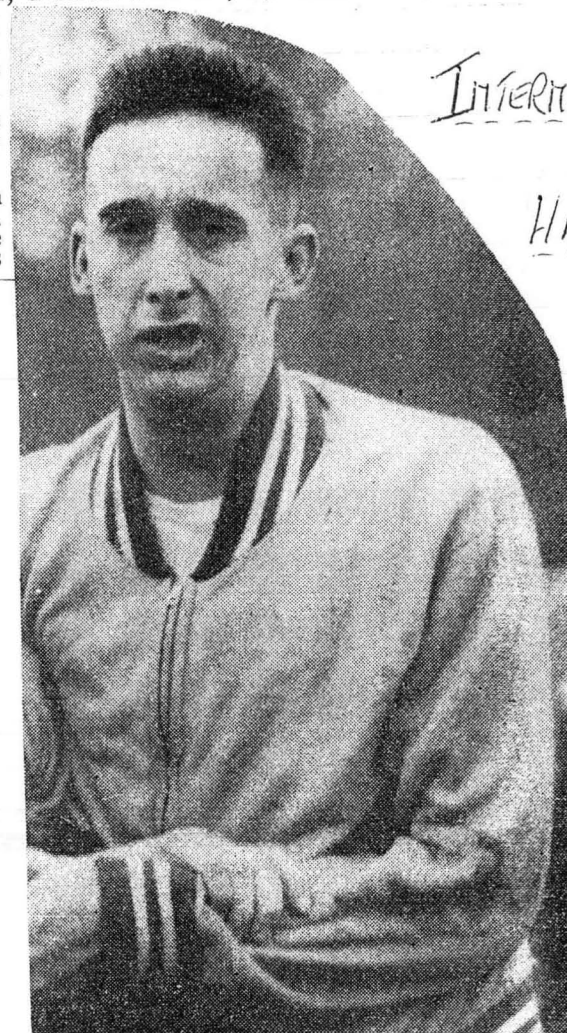
Growled Mihallic: "I've seen enough of that Pirie; when Pirie runs no one can run against him, and now these other Englishmen give no one a chance."

Mihallic cooled down and appealed to English Cross Country Union secretary Laurie Richardson: "How can you have so many murderous runners?"

Richardson replied: "Easy, they just train harder than anyone else in the world so they are the best in the world."

And today the running men of England were just that—the best in the world.

How they finished (distance 14 kilometres, 8.69 miles).—G Pirie, 43mins 5secs, 1; F Sando, 43-33, 2; K Norris, 43-40, 3; M Van de Wattyne (Belgium), 44; F Herman (Belgium), 45; F Mihallic (Yugoslavia), 46. Team placings: England, 6 pts, 1; Belgium, 19, 2; Yugoslavia, 34, 3.



INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY RACE  
HANNUUT, BELGIUM  
1955.





Some idea of the gruelling conditions under which the Southern Counties cross-country championships were run at Stanmer Park on Saturday can be seen in this picture. It shows Pirie in the middle with Norris (right) and Hugh Foord, of Brighton A.C. They stayed like this most of the way.

#### SOUTHERN—Brighton

SENIOR (9 miles).—D. A. C. Pirie (S London H), 52m 48s, 1; K. Norris (holder) (Thames Valley H), 52.59, 2; H. V. Foord (Brighton A.C.), 53.36, 3; M. Barratt (Ealing H), 53.46, 4; K. F. Caulder (Surrey A.C.), 54.0, 5; P. B. Driver (S London H), 54.13, 6.  
F. D. Sando (Aylesford P.M.), 54.49, 7; A. F. Newson (Herne Hill H), 54.49, 8; B. T. Barratt (Surrey A.C.), 55.11, 9; G. T. Olding (Hornsey St Mary's), 55.14, 10; A. F. Perkins (Ilford A.C.), 55.21, 11; M. A. Baker (Horsham B.S.), 55.29, 12.  
R. S. Clark (Herne Hill H), 55.49, 13; E. W. Whitehead (Finchley H), 55.51, 14; P. J. Pirie (South London H), 55.54, 15; J. R. Humphreys (South London H), 56.04, 16; R. Lambert (Wigmore), 56.13, 17; M. Y. Blythe (St Albans City), 56.16, 18; J. Lyne (South London H), 56.17, 19; D. R. Brooker (Reading A.C.), 56.26, 20.  
TEAMS: South London Harriers (holders) (1, 6, 15, 18, 19, 25), 82 points, 1; Belgrave H., 182, 2; Thames Valley H., 205, 3; Blackheath H., 351, 4; Surrey A.C., 369, 5; Herne Hill H., 387, 6.

#### PIRIE TRIUMPHS IN SOUTH RACE

##### BEATS COLD AND NORRIS

By JACK CRUMP

All four district senior cross-country championships on Saturday provided a change of individual title-holder.

Gordon Pirie was first home in the Southern event at Stanmer Park, Brighton, but he had a far harder struggle than had been expected over the hilly, nine-mile course.

Pirie, suffering from a very heavy cold, did not manage to drop his opponents in his customary manner and for the first-half of the race Ken Norris, the holder, and the local runner, H. V. Foord contested the lead.



PIRIE—Splendid achievement.

M. L. Barratt, last year's Southern junior champion, ran splendidly to finish fourth, the English junior champion, K. F. Caulder, taking fifth place in front of the international trio, P. B. Driver, F. Sando and M. R. Maynard.

Pirie's club, South London Harriers, easily retained the team title with 82pts, Belgrave surprising Thames Valley to finish second with 182pts to the Valley's 205.

Foord dropped a little behind shortly before seven miles, but the Pirie-Norris fight continued until the final half-mile, when Pirie pulled away to win an excellent race by 60 yards in 52min 48sec. In view of his cold this must be regarded as another first-class achievement by Pirie. Norris was second in 52min 59sec and Foord third in 53min 36sec.









A ticket to Spain. Gordon Pirie receives his letter of authority for the forthcoming International from the Mayor of Bedford (Ald. C. A. E. C. Howard), who was Chairman of this year's championships. On the Mayor's right is Mr. R. G. Gale (Deputy Mayor), and on his left Mr. L. F. Edwards (President of the English Cross-Country Union).



Paint salesman Gordon Pirie, star of an England team captained by statistician Frank Sando, left London today for Saturday's international cross-country championships at San Sebastian, Spain.

## Flu man Pirie has faint hope



From DESMOND HACKETT

SAN SEBASTIAN, Friday. — Gordon Pirie, world's No. 1 cross-country runner, is almost certain to have to miss his hoodoo race—the European championship—tomorrow.

Pirie developed flu when he arrived and today tried desperately to run off the effects. But he finished up in bed in a state of collapse.

A doctor was called in, and the hourly bulletins are the most eagerly read news around these parts.

"Puff-puff" Pirie, the Stanley Matthews of cross-country, was expected to draw a record 30,000 crowd, and the locals had bet many pesetas on the distance by which Pirie would win.

Pirie has four times qualified for the European championship, but has been able to run only once—in Paris, where he also developed flu symptoms but insisted on running and finished 19th.

This evening he told me: "I will run only if I feel fit. I tried to run against this kind of thing in Paris and it has been a nightmare ever since."

I did my best to cheer up Pirie by playing cards in his bedroom overlooking a sunlit bay so beautiful that it looked like a tourist poster come true.

### WORK-OUT

This morning Pirie, wearing sweaters under a track suit, a ski-ing suit and a pixie hood, ran over the course, winding through the local race track, by a whirling river and through an orchard.

After an hour-long work-out Pirie looked grey and weary. He was a man in agony.

Last words from Pirie: "Don't count me out. If I feel I can put on a show I will be out there running for England."

Team manager George Dunn said: "With Gordon you can never tell. We will have a final test before the race, and I still give him a 50-50 chance."

Pirie or no Pirie, it will still be England first. If he does not run, the title fight will be between three men of England—little Frank Sando, boyish-looking Ken Norris, and R.A.F. champion Pat Ranger.

# Now unlucky Pirie tips Ranger as winner

From GEORGE WHITING: San Sebastian (Spain), Saturday

There will be no Gordon Pirie in this afternoon's international cross-country championship here. Faint hopes that he might have been a starter were dashed this morning when Dr. Antonio Gastaminza ordered: "Remain in bed."

Influenza victim Pirie, by now the most celebrated invalid in Spain, still has a temperature and a high pulse rate and unless his condition improves he will not return with the rest of the England team tomorrow.

### Orange juice

Pirie, propped up in bed and feeding on orange juice and chocolate, was a disappointed man as he told me his troubles.

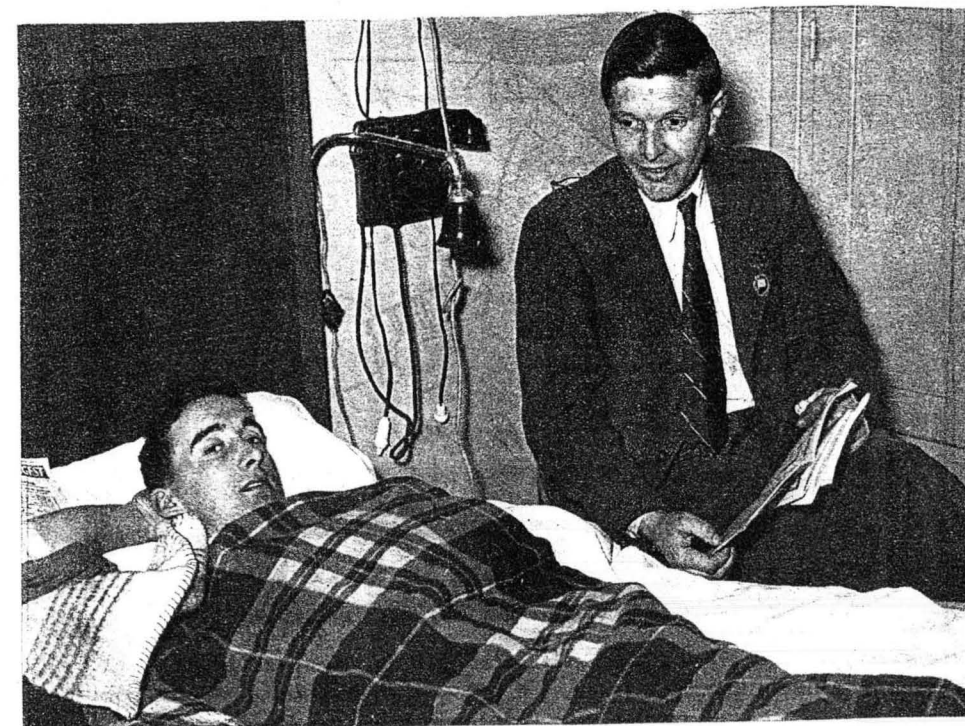
"This must be my unlucky race. I have been chosen four times, run only once, kept out twice by illness or injury—and now this. The annoying part is that this international is the only big race I have never won—and I am certain I could have won it this time by streets."

Without Pirie, today's 14,000-metre race at the Hipodromo de Lasarte racecourse undoubtedly loses much of its interest so far as records are concerned but England are still hot favourites to keep the team honours they have held for the last two years.

Last season, we had seven men in the first nine—without Pirie. I still think we can do almost as well today.



PIRIE consoles himself with tea in bed after medical examination had ruled him out of the championship race.—Today's radio picture from Spain.



TOUT IRA BIEN. — Pirie a failli faire éclater le thermomètre. « Demain, tu restes au lit, lui dit son entraîneur, mais tu peux compter sur les autres, il n'y avait guère que Mimoun pour les battre et Mimoun ne partira pas. » San Sebastian a connu sa « promenade des Anglais ».



# SANDO BEATS PIRIE. —AND HIS RECORD

ALTHOUGH South London Harriers romped home, easy winners of the Great Britain London-Brighton road relay final, it was Aylesford Paper Mills' international champion, Frank Sando, who provided the sensation.



Pirie (S.L.H.) leads the London-Brighton Relay Field

He smashed Gordon Pirie's record of last year for the 6½ miles stretch from Crawley to Handcross by 33 seconds down to 32 minutes 54 seconds.

Pirie ran in the same stage. He had taken over with a lead. Making his own running, he clocked 33 minutes 54 seconds.

Stage records were broken eight times in all.

After C. Wilson put South London Harriers in front in the second lap, it was a triumphal progress all the way. But for easing over the latter stages, with victory assured, they would have beaten their own last year's record by considerably more than the 2 minutes 18 seconds, which brought the new record to 4 hours 29 minutes 19 seconds.

Results: 1. South London Harriers, 4hr. 29min. 19sec.; 2. Polytechnic H., 4-33-15; 3. Sheffield United H., 4-33-29; 4. Belgrave H., 4-34-15; 5. Thames Valley H., 4-35-22; 6. Herne Hill Harriers, 4-36-15.

## PIRIE'S FINE SIX MILES RACE

### SCHOOLBOYS MEETING CONCLUDED

FROM OUR ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

The quality of the running as a whole, apart from that of the winner, D. A. G. Pirie, and his runner-up, K. L. Norris, made the race for the Southern six miles championship a memorable event at the White City on Saturday. This A.A.A. championship, as usual, had been grafted on to the Schools meeting which had been started on the previous day and now had reached the stage when only semi-finals and finals remained to be decided.

The fact that Pirie had with him on the track each of the 25 seeded runners—of itself a notable happening—was, perhaps, the first indication of the kind of race which lay ahead. Some of the all too few spectators no doubt concentrated upon the possibility of a new British record, but, although that was not quite to be, for Pirie's time was two seconds behind his own previous best on the same track, it was the size and excellence of the opposing field which largely explained what the record-mongers may have regarded as a failure.

Three-and-a-quarter miles, indeed, had to be covered before even the last runner could be lapped, and one learned afterwards that 13 competitors had finished inside the A.A.A. standard time of 30 seconds. That and Pirie's superb stride and good judgment in reeling off the 24 laps, half of them at the heels of Norris, who surely never before had raced so well on a track, were the things which deserved most attention.

### RELENTLESS PACE

It is too early to arrive at any definite conclusions, but, on Saturday's form, it certainly looks as if Pirie has completely re-found himself and is well on the way to a great season—perhaps his greatest so far. For some of his opponents, notably P. D. Driver, the effort came too soon for them to be able to do themselves justice. The times for the six miles indicate both the pace set by the leaders and the relentless steadiness of their running—one mile, 4min. 41.4sec.; two miles, 9min. 24.8sec.; three miles, 14min. 8.4sec.; four miles, 18min. 54.8sec.; five miles, 23min. 42.8sec.; six miles, 28min. 21.4sec.

Norris always was well up in the race, but he does not possess Pirie's devastating finish and so could not give more than an impressively smooth performance from start to finish. Norris took the lead from Pirie in the fourth mile, these two already having separated themselves from the rest of the field by 80 yards. Foord was the nearest man. The two leaders ran in tandem until the final backstretch, when Pirie really let himself go. He ended up the winner by nearly 30 yards, but it still was well worth bearing in mind that only the three giants, Zatopek, Kovacs, and Pirie have done the distance in faster time than Norris's 28min. 25.6sec. Pirie on this occasion was 4.2sec. faster than Norris. His chances of beating the world record of 27min. 59.2sec., set up by Zatopek, can now be regarded as rather better than fair.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES  
6 MILES.  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
WHITE CITY 1955.

## NOW PIRIE RUNS WITH HIS HEAD

By DOUG WILSON

(Famous miler, our Athletics Reporter)

GORDON PIRIE will adopt new tactics this season. No longer will he blaze away from the gun, refusing to be overtaken at any stage.

Instead, he will try guile, and show us a finishing burst comparable with anything Roger Bannister ever produced.

First public view of the new Pirie was at the White City, London, on Saturday, when he won the Southern 6-mile title in the championship record time of 28min. 21.4sec.—his second fastest.

When courageous Ken Norris took the lead at the four-mile mark, Pirie was content to follow, and did not rush to the front until the last 300 yards.

But when he did let rip, Norris had no answer. I doubt whether any runner in the world would have had, either. Norris, who finished second, 30 yards down, had the satisfaction of recording 28min. 25.6sec., fourth fastest time ever. Again he proved how wrong it was to leave him out of the Empire Games team last season.

### Driver's mistake

Hugh Ford confirmed the reputation he gained over the country by finishing third in this classic field.

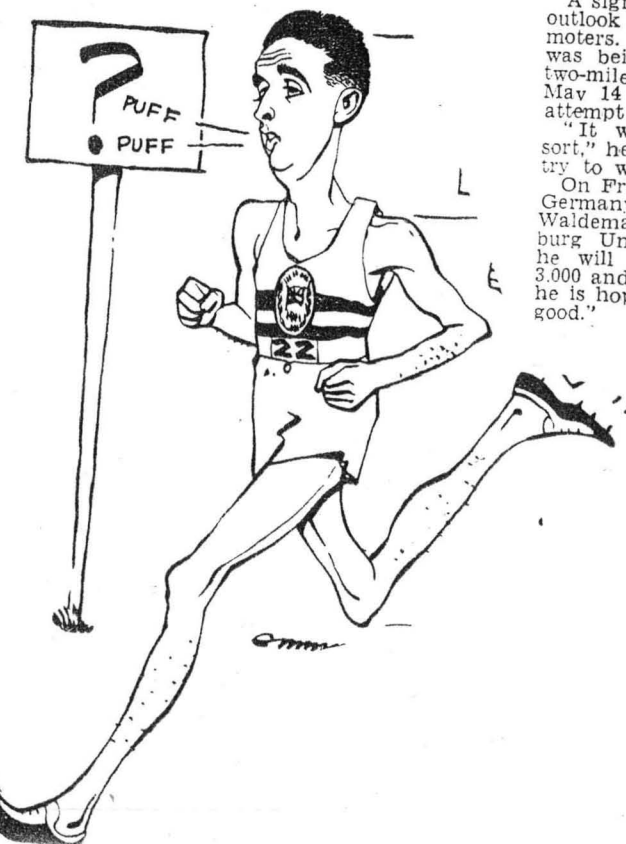
Too much attention should not be paid to the poor showing of Empire Games champion Peter Driver, who, nearly lapped by Pirie, finished eighth.

Driver has made the mistake of training too hard after a bad bout of influenza. There is nothing wrong with him that a short rest will not cure.

A sign of Pirie's more mature outlook is his attitude to promoters. I was present when he was being urged to allow his two-mile race at Manchester on May 14 to be advertised as an attempt on the world record.

"It will be nothing of the sort," he said. "I am going to try to win in a fast time."

On Friday week Pirie flies to Germany to see his coach, Waldemar Gerschler, at Freiburg University. While there, he will have two races over 3,000 and 2,000 metres in which he is hoping to "do something good."



## PIRIE RUNS BAREFOOT



To harden the soles of his feet, wonder runner Gordon Pirie removed his shoes for a few laps on the Tooting Bec track after his regular work-out at speed for about three hours.



Puff-Puff Pirie meets Puffer Andrews, but would Eamonn look as happy without that cigarette in his hand? Mention of Pirie's nickname brought a quick halt to one of our columnist's short periods of abstinence.





Flying out from London Airport today, wonder runner Gordon Pirie was off to Germany to compete in the 3,000 metres race at Freiburg tomorrow.

## WONDER BURST WINS MILE RACE FOR PIRIE

From ROY MOOR

HEILBRONN, Southern Germany, Sunday. BACK to international track racing here today came puffing Gordon Pirie—with a fantastic 300-yard finishing burst which put 25 yards at the tape between himself and German Olympic finalist Rolf Lammers.

Pirie's time for this mile was 4min. 12.4sec.

"That burst convinced me Pirie is in wonderful shape," said his German coach, Professor Gerschler. I asked him if he is also convinced Pirie can do a four-minute mile. The professor was evasive: "He can be much faster," he said, "and will race at this shorter distance until he has PROVED to me he can run a very fast mile."

This may mean Pirie racing for the mile title at the national championships in July instead of the six miles.

### Champion on a bicycle

The crowd roared for Pirie as he whipped up to that tremendous sprint down the finishing straight. Minutes later they roared again as the English champion rode a lap of honour on a new green bicycle—his prize.

Pirie was pleased by his performance. It made him forget his disappointment of the day before when he was nearly five seconds outside the German

3,000 metres record at Freiburg.

He had hoped for a time 10 seconds faster than his 8min. 22.4sec. but made the mistake of racing too fast in the early laps.

Today he was content with passing the half-mile in 2min. 8.4sec., winding-up with a last lap of 59.9sec. and showing no distress.

Gordon told me he is not worrying about the six miles—for which he is expected to break the world record—until he races Emil Zatopek in Prague later in the season.

This week Pirie has severe medical check-ups with Professor Reindell, of Freiburg University. His brother, Peter, will be training with him.

## SORRY, CUSTOMS TELL PIRIE

By JONATHAN

GORDON PIRIE will receive a parcel and an apology in the next few days. The parcel will contain the camera which he won in Germany and on which he refused to pay duty. The apology comes from the Customs authorities.

Pirie won the camera, valued at £5, by beating international opponents in a race at Freiburg. He went there alone.

At London Airport he told the Customs officials who he was and how he had won the camera. He was asked to pay £4 duty. He refused. Customs kept the camera.

Pirie later wrote asking for the camera to be released. The authorities satisfied themselves that the camera was an award of merit.

They wrote apologetically to Pirie informing him that a mistake had been made and that the camera would be forwarded.

So the conundrum I set in this column recently is happily answered.

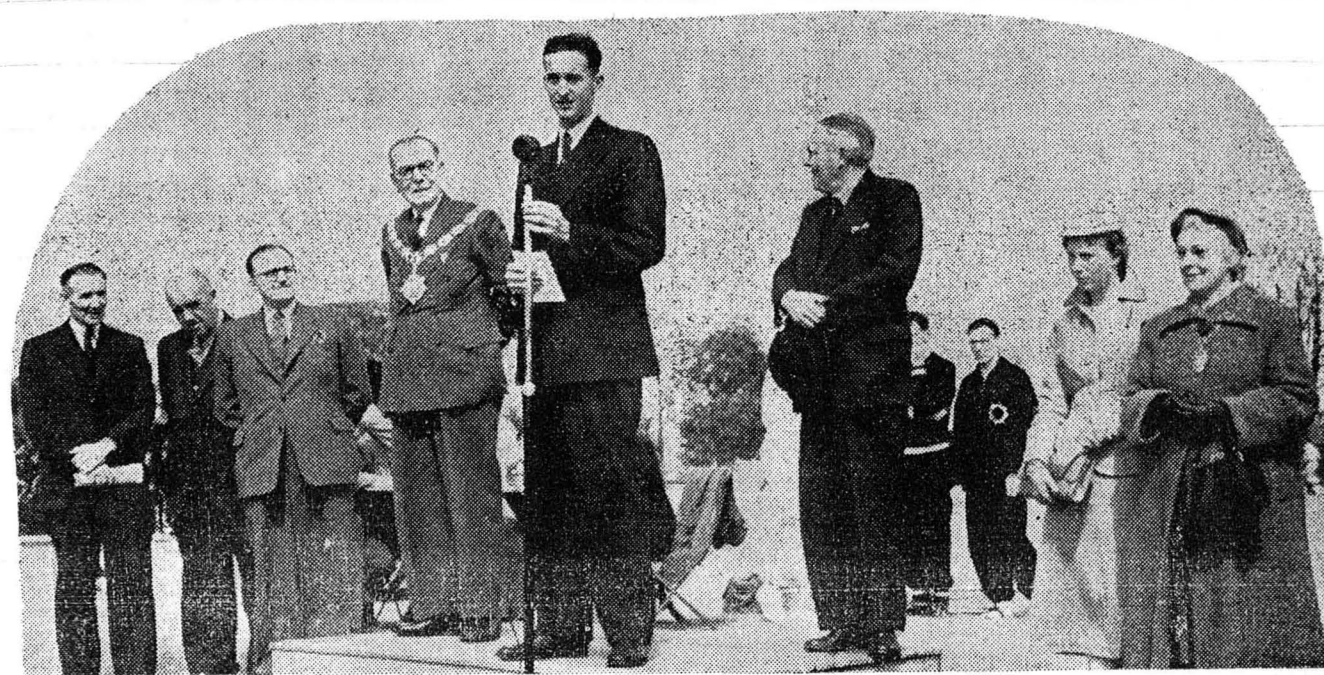
Why, I asked, should Pirie be requested to pay £4 on his prize when B.O.A.C. stewardess Anne Price was allowed to bring in, duty-free, a £2,000 ring awarded to her in a Queen of the Air competition in Johannesburg?

### Proof needed

A CUSTOMS official explained yesterday: "Unless we have proof that a prize is a prize according to the letter of the law, we must charge the appropriate tax or hold the prize pending investigation at an appropriate level."

### THE PIRIES' TRIUMPH

Gordon Pirie won the 3,000 metres in an international athletics meeting at Freiburg yesterday in 8min. 22.4secs. Peter Pirie was second in 8-29.2, and Helmut Thumm, of Germany, third in 8-30.2.



SPORTS STADIUM OPENING.—Gordon Pirie opened Erith's new sports stadium on Saturday. The famous runner is accompanied on the dais by the Mayor of Erith, Councillor W. Boast, J.P. (left), and the Town Clerk of Erith (Mr. J. A. Crompton (right). The Mayoress of Erith is on the extreme right of the picture, while borough officials seen on the left are Mr. I. Steel (Deputy Borough Surveyor), Mr. J. Muckart (Parks Superintendent) and Mr. J. H. Clayton (Borough Surveyor).

GORDON PIRIE, who is president of Erith and District Athletic Club, told some 4,000 spectators that Erith was setting an example to other places in the country which did not have a running track of their own, when he opened Erith's new £20,000 sports stadium on Saturday.

There was a big disappointment in that as Pirie was suffering from tonsillitis, he was under doctor's orders not to compete in the invitation 880yds. race as arranged. Nevertheless, there were plenty of thrills in the programme of field events which featured six of England's leading amateur athletic clubs.

Before calling on Gordon Pirie to perform the opening ceremony, the Mayor of Erith (Councillor W. Boast, J.P.) congratulated the great sportsman on his brilliant performance at the White City the previous week, when he won the Southern Counties six miles title.

After saying that Erith was setting a great example in the athletic world, Mr. Pirie appealed to the boys and girls in Erith to use their new track. "You must get the local boys and girls to use this track as much as they can, for the future of the country in the field of sport depends upon these boys and girls," he declared.

Speaking to a Kentish Times reporter after the opening ceremony, Mr. Pirie said: "As president of Erith and District Athletic Club, I want the youngsters from the local schools, who have any inclination to run, to come forward and join the club."

He said he was most impressed by the new sports stadium. The track, although it required time to settle, appeared to be in very good condition, while the surroundings were ideal.

Referring to his inability to take part in the racing programme, Mr. Pirie said he was most disappointed, but he was sure that everyone would appreciate that, in view of his racing commitments in Germany this week-end, his doctor had instructed him not to run while still suffering from a bout of tonsillitis.



# IBBOTSON SENDS PIRIE PUFFING TO NEW HEIGHTS... WHAT NEXT, GORDON?

## A four-minute mile within his reach

By ROY MOOR

**I**F Gordon Pirie can cover a mile in 4min. 9sec. while running the world's second fastest 2,000 metres (1 mile 427 yards), how fast can he run the mile without having to reserve power for the extra 427 yards?

Let Pirie himself reply: "Maybe 4min. 2sec., or perhaps 4min. 1sec." That was his carefully considered opinion after running to within 2.8sec. of Gaston Reiff's 2,000 metres world record of 5min. 7sec. during the Universities' Athletic Union championships at the White City, Manchester, on Saturday.

Watch him try to prove it at next week-end's British Games in London. He will warm up tonight against A.A.A. champion Brian Hewson over 800 yards in an inter-club relay at Tooting.

After watching every stride of his run at Manchester I am in no doubt that Pirie is a four-minute miler. What a pity he will not be in the international mile against Hewson, Chris Chataway and Hungary's Santos Iharos at the Games next Saturday. There he would find pace-makers to bring the best out of him. Instead he will race for Surrey in the inter-county championship mile.

### Pacemakers needed

Here the fastest opposition is likely to come from Frank Wyatt (Gloucester), Ralph Dunkley (Middlesex) and Dennis Crook (Devon). If only one of these fine young runners can do an "Ibbotson" on him Pirie will burst through the four-minute barrier.

Dennis Ibbotson, a self-trained Huddersfield cross-country runner with no milling experience, startled the crowd—and Pirie—at Manchester by dashing into the lead with little more than a lap of the 2,000 metres race to go when Pirie was already setting a hot pace.

Ibbotson still headed Pirie as he raced past the mile post in 4min. 8.8sec.—1.6sec. faster than the former world record holder Paavo Nurmi ever ran the distance.

The shock sent Pirie almost sprinting away over the final 300 yards. A plucky Ibbotson chased hard and was less than 20 yards down at the finish in 5min. 12.8sec.

### Speed and stamina

"I had no idea I could run such a fast mile, let alone carry on for another 400 yards afterwards," Ibbotson told me. "Only recently my R.A.F. pals at Yatesbury were telling me to give up three-mile races and concentrate on six-mile events because I seemed to have more stamina than speed."

"I entered the race only for the fun of competing against Gordon Pirie," continued Ibbotson. "When he started to go away from the rest of us I thought I would try and stay with him. I found I could and as I still seemed to be running comfortably I thought I would try and beat him. But I couldn't cope with his wonderful finish."

Now, Ibbotson has a big problem—how to re-arrange his season's programme to include mile races. "I'll manage it some how," he says. He is scheduled for three miles at the British Games.

While in Manchester Pirie stayed with one of his South London club colleagues Martin Walmsley, who is a student at Manchester University. He watched Walmsley qualify for the U.A.U. mile championship final then gave him a few hints.

The outcome was a surprise inches victory for Walmsley in the record-breaking 4min. 9sec. final. International selection is likely to follow for Walmsley this week.

A.A.A. - U - LONDON UNIVERSITY,  
MOTSPUR PARK - 1955.

## Pirie slows up, but still cracks record with 4 m 6 s mile

**GORDON PIRIE** is getting nearer that four-minute mile.

He covered the distance in 4min. 6sec. on the rain-soaked Motspur Park track for the A.A.A. against London University last night.

The impressive feature of the run was that Pirie led the field for almost three laps.

John Evans the London University miler, was in front at the quarter mile—clocked in 59.6sec. 100 yards later Pirie took command. Evans stayed with him until past the half mile (reached in 2min. 1.8sec.) and was

still only three yards behind for the three-quarters in 3min. 2.8sec.

Then Pirie unleashed an amazing sprint leaving the field behind him by 20 yards in less than 150.

He slowed over the back straight—"I was stupidly thinking of what time I would do," he said afterwards—but managed to put in an explosive finish.

His last lap time was a rather slow 63.2sec.

This is Pirie's fourth sub-4min.-10sec. mile this season, and the second best of his career.

"I am a little disappointed my last lap was 53.2sec." he summed up, "but at least I'm getting near that four minutes."

Evans was second in 4min. 9.4sec., and Chris Brasher laboured home third in 4min. 15 sec.

Pirie's time will probably count as a new track record, as the previous best, Bannister's 4min. 2sec., was not accepted when put forward as a British record.

'I'LL DO IT'



GORDON PIRIE

... he is confident he can do a four-minute mile.

**R**ESTLESS, relentless Gordon Pirie was out training all yesterday trying to reach a less-than-four-minute-mile peak by 3.20 this afternoon.

Pirie is still certain he can do as well as Hungary's Istavan Tabori and Britain's Chris Chataway and Brian Hewson, all of whom beat four minutes at London's White City on Saturday in the most sensational mile race ever seen.

Galloping Gordon tried gallantly in his heat of the inter-counties mile, less than an hour after news of the fabulous Tabori-Chataway-Hewson epic had been flashed round the world.

But he had no pacemaker. He went off like a bomb to lead the field around the first bend and clocked a startling 58 secs. for the first lap. And, like a bomb, Gordon blew up.

At the half-mile—2min. 1.6 sec.—ace-coach Franz Stampf, who had carefully prepared Chataway and Hewson over the past seven months, turned to me and shook his head.

### WRONG WAY

"Pirie is a marvel," he said, "but he can't beat four minutes this way." He was right. Gordon—3min. 4.8sec.—was nearly three seconds slower than the four-minute men at three-quarters of a mile. HE FINISHED IN 4MIN. 9SEC.

Can Pirie crack the magical 240 seconds in the inter-counties final today? The odds are against him, unless there are other competitors willing—and able—to help push him along.

Tabori's previous best was 4min. 5.2sec. at the White City last year.



But below is the man who could not make it four in a day. An hour later Gordon Pirie ran in a mile heat in the Counties Championship. After a first lap of 53sec. he slowed to a time of 4min. 9sec.



## Pirie Keep Surrey Mil Title

By H. J. OATEN

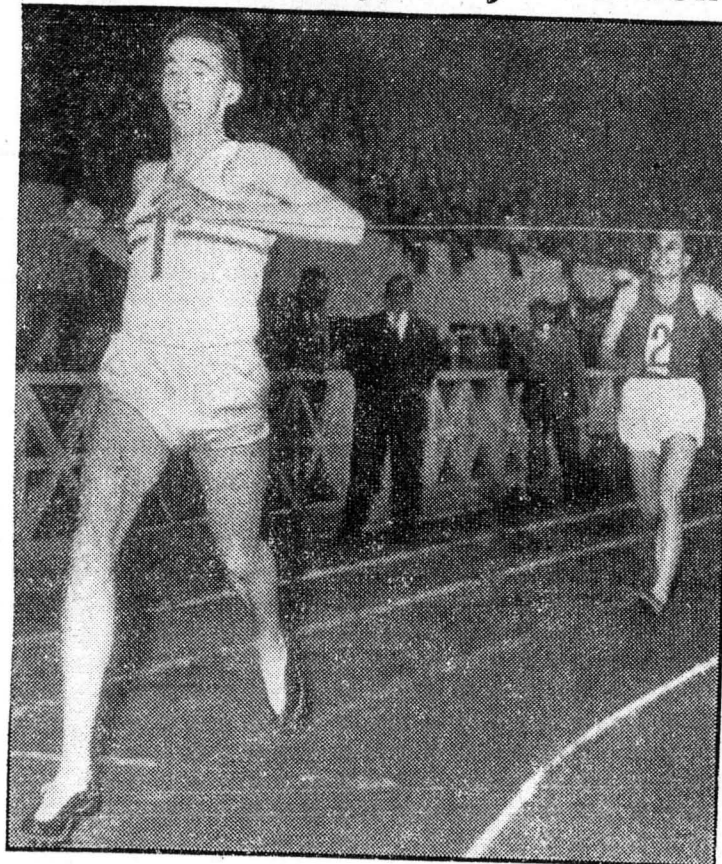
**GORDON PIRIE** came back to the track in the Surrey Athletic Championships at Motspur Park this afternoon, defending his mile title, which he won last in the record time of 4 10.6sec.

He had an easy heat, winning comfortably in 4 min. 22 sec. suffered no inconvenience the arm injury which caused to scratch from the inter-county mile last Monday.

Gordon Pirie won the S. Mile championship in a new time of 4min. 8.0sec.—two seconds faster than his own record. He ran the third lap in 57.7sec.



"Just too easy," says Gordon



Home comes Gordon Pirie a good six yards ahead of Laszlo Tabori and still farther ahead of Sandor Iharos. And Gordon's first comment after beating the Hungarian stars was: "It was just too easy! It seemed like a walk past."

A VICTORY TO MAKE BRITAIN PROUD

# Pirie beats Iharos AND Tabori

**B**RAVO, Gordon Pirie! He beat both Laszlo Tabori and Sandor Iharos, Hungarian stars of the Whitsun meeting at White City, here tonight in a special 2,000 metres international event. It was a brilliant effort.

As he came off the track Pirie calmly commented: "It was just too easy. It seemed like a walk past to me!"

The winning time of 5 minutes 12.6 seconds was 5.6 seconds outside Gaston Reiff's world record but Pirie dismissed that lightly.

"It was much more important to win this race," he said, "and I'm satisfied that I won without a shadow of a doubt."

## Pacemaker

His triumph was, indeed, a major triumph for Britain. Tabori won that fantastic mile at White City in 3 minutes 59 seconds, with Chris Chataway and Brian Hewson eight-tenths of a second behind.

Iharos, already world-record holder for the 3,000 metres, smashed the record for two miles at White City in 8 minutes 33.4 seconds.

Tonight Tabori came as pace-maker to Iharos. It was a formidable Hungarian combination in tactics and effort.

Pirie said: "My big surprise was that neither Tabori nor Iharos forced a faster pace. Had they done so I still think I could have

From ROY MOOR  
Brussels, Wednesday

beaten them because I felt so full of running."

Indeed, Pirie gave the impression that he could go on running for miles.

The Hungarians were here to beat Reiff's record as well as Pirie, and as soon as the gun cracked, Tabori tore into the lead closely followed by Iharos.

The 24-year-old Pirie, drawn in an outside position, decided to run wide while others fought for positions at the bends and he came strongly into his stride entering the straight to tuck in behind the Hungarian pair.

So the placings remained for the first lap: 1, Tabori; 2, Iharos; 3, Pirie. After a lap and a half the positions were the same.

Then, at two laps, Iharos burst away. Pirie kept close to him and waited. Iharos was still in front approaching the start of the third circuit but Tabori was obviously worried by Pirie's close attention and again sped away in front in an endeavour to lead Iharos away from Pirie.

But Pirie was giving nothing away. Running relaxed, he showed not the slightest sign of worry. Tabori and Iharos even ran side by

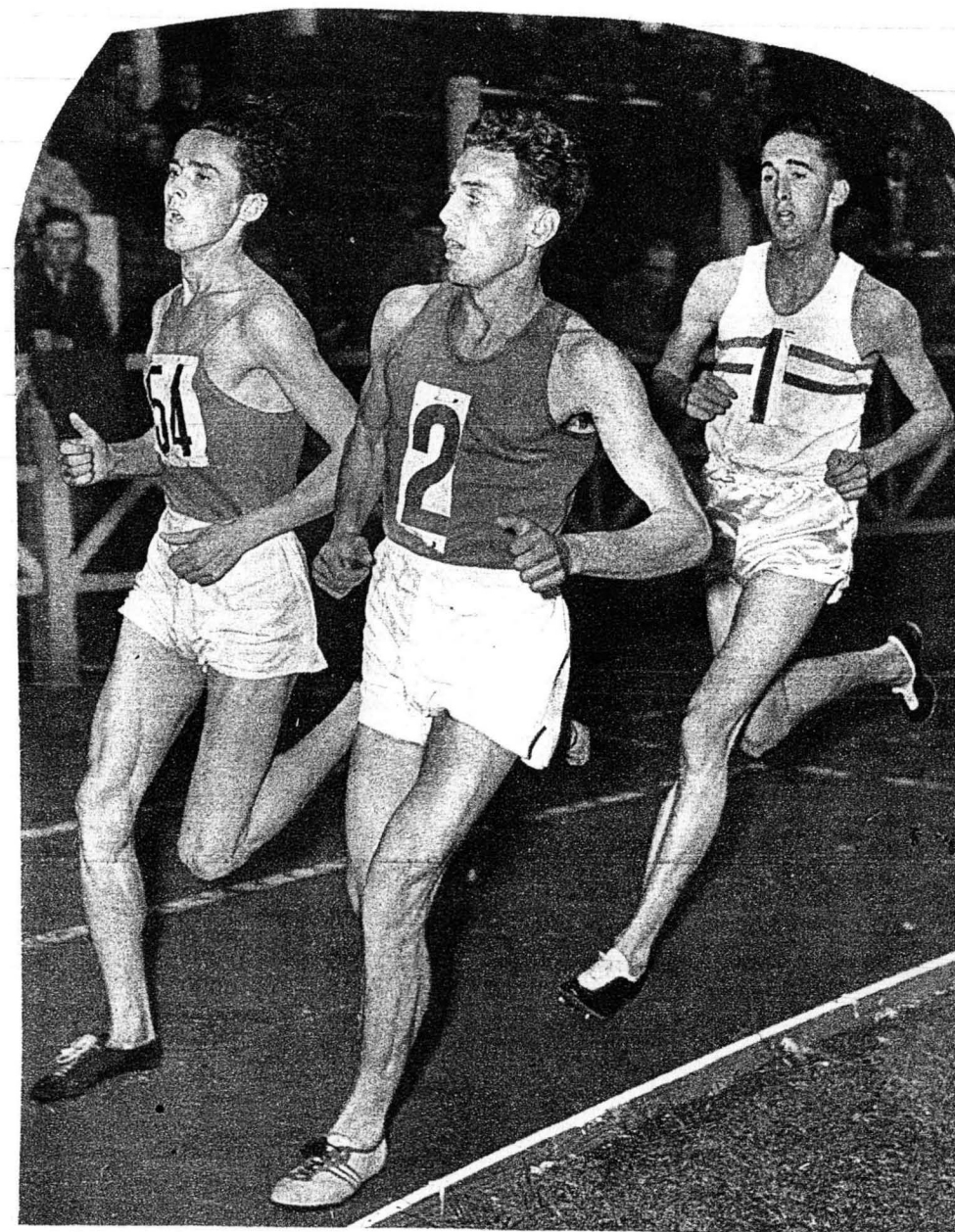
side to make it more difficult for Pirie to pass.

After four laps Tabori was still in command. Then Iharos made his strike for home. Pirie was ready. With a little more than 250 yards to go, Pirie began an electrifying burst which did not ease up until he tore through the winning tape a good six yards ahead of Tabori, who passed a struggling Iharos in the finishing straight.

Tabori was timed at 5 minutes 13.2 seconds, and Iharos at 5 minutes 16.4 seconds.

Pirie's time at one mile was 4 minutes 16 seconds.

Barely 5,000 watched this battle of track giants round the narrow cinder strip of the picturesque St. Gilloise Stadium.



Un départ trop lent n'a pas permis aux Hongrois Iharos (54) et Tabori (2) de battre le record des 2 km auxquels ils s'attaquaient. Et c'est Gordon Pirie (1) qui l'a emporté, les lâchant à 200 mètres de l'arrivée

## HE PLAYED HIS OWN GAME

After his win, Pirie told B.U.P.: "I felt as though we were walking? I stayed behind the Hungarians because they were after the record, not me."

"If I had taken the lead, the race would have been faster. But I was playing my game, not theirs. I wanted to win, not beat the record."

"I can beat the 2,000 metres record any time. Give me men who run a mile in 4 minutes 4 seconds and I'll beat Reiff's time."

"The track was O.K. tonight, despite the damp air. The Hungarians did not like the sharp bends in the track, hence their slow speed. Hence mine. But I won."

"I would rather win in six minutes than lose in record time."



Kinnaird Tro

255.

Dutch Olympic Day Sports @ Amsterdam 1955



# 'NO-ENERGY' PIRIE FLOPS TWICE, BUT HEWSON SPEEDS ON

From CLIFFORD WEBB

AMSTERDAM, Sunday.—Foot blisters that had to be treated immediately after the race did not prevent Brian Hewson, one of Britain's four-minute milers, winning the 1,500-metre international event here today. But the 35,000 holiday crowd were more concerned about the startling fade-out of Gordon Pirie, who made a last-minute decision to run against Hewson and finished a bad third.

The German Hans Hermann split the pair in a fast final lap that had Pirie struggling. After the race Pirie flopped on the grass verge and slept flat on his back while a Soccer match between Ajax (Holland) and Botofogo (Brazil) was started in the middle. Thoroughly weary and disappointed with his showing, Pirie told me: "I have no energy today and I just can't make an effort."

He faded even more significantly two hours afterwards, in the 800 metres. I am certain he would not have run in this race had it not been his original entry. He made one half-hearted effort on the back straight, but never got within striking distance of the leader and eventual winner, Otto Lawrenz (West Germany) whose 1min. 50.8sec. beat the track record of Douglas Lowe (Britain) which had stood at 1min. 51.8sec. since July, 1928.

## Laying off

Pirie tailed off to roll in sixth. Never have I seen him in such poor shape. This event was run in a terrific downpour and intense humidity but, even taking this into account it looks black for Gordon's attempt on the three miles world record in Manchester on Wednesday. Hewson, who is due to go over

ice



IT'S PIRIE BEHIND. . . . This unusual view of Gordon Pirie was seen in the Kinnaird Trophy meeting at Chiswick yesterday. Derek Johnson won the 880 final, beating Pirie in the record time of 1min. 52.8secs.

# OUT-OF-PUFF PIRIE FAILS

Record win for Hewson • Sad Gordon flops twice

A THOROUGHLY dejected Gordon Pirie walked off the Olympic Stadium track here this afternoon. On his way from London he made a sudden decision to compete with four-minute miler Brian Hewson in the 1,500 metres international race, as well as in the 800 metres, at the Dutch Olympic Day sports. He was beaten, and well beaten, in both races. As Hewson strove majestically to victory in the 1,500 metres, six yards ahead of East German champion Hans Hermann, and in a new track record time of 3min. 47.5sec., Pirie finished another ten yards down in third place.

## Clarion call

"I just had no snap at all," he said. "And the way the 1500 metres race was run did not help me to get the fast time I was after." Pity Pirie did not go out to make the pace here, for I am sure the 45,000 crowd would have enjoyed what could have been a struggle. Instead, the hero of Wednesday's triumph over the Hungarians in Brussels was content to trail Hewson in the centre of the ten-man field for two laps while Schmalz, from West Germany, and Hermann each led in turn. As Hermann raced past the 800 metres mark in 2min. 6sec., Hewson took a more serious interest in the leadership. He eased his way into second place. Pirie edged into third position. Then came the bell. Hewson reacted like a fireman to an alarm. He suddenly streaked round 1. Pirie tried to follow, but the East

From ROY MOOR  
Amsterdam, Sunday.

metres run as training for his world's three-mile record attempt at Manchester on Wednesday. His defeats today have not undermined his confidence to get near that record, held by Vladimir Kuc.

German champion was already alerted to the danger. Round the bends and down the back stretch Pirie tried to force his way past Hermann. The German would not concede an inch, so Pirie tucked into third place again for the final bend—hoping to strike again in the straight. There was no strike left. He gave up just as Hewson, keeping up his fine speed, whipped through the tape in a time that equalled Jack Lovelock's winning performance in the 1936 Olympics. Hewson's only satisfaction from the race was the victory. "It was much too jerky to enjoy," he told me. He sped over the final 400 metres in 54 seconds—"It didn't hurt until the last 15 yards," he said.

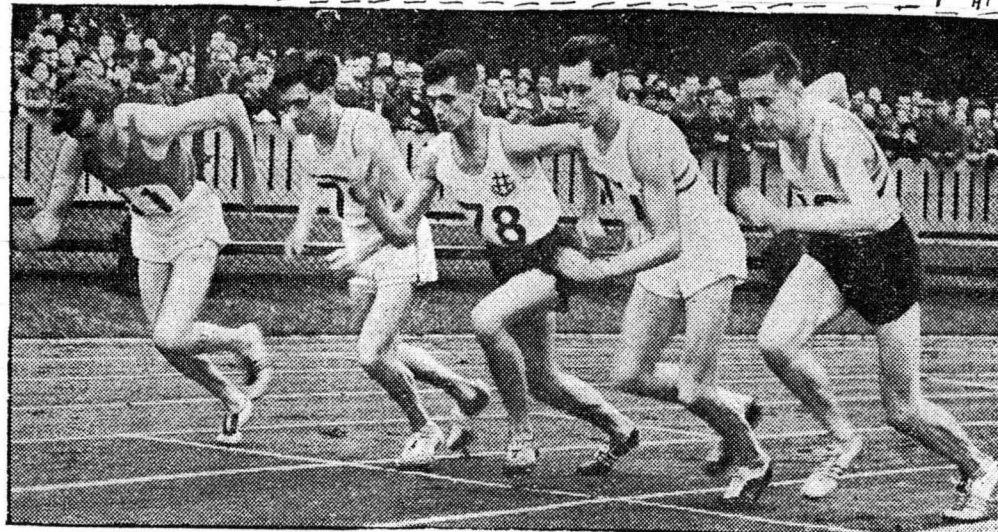
## Fade-out begins

Pirie was in the 800-metres race with a chance. From second place, he chased Otto Lawrenz, of Germany, with only 250 yards to go. Then—another Pirie—fade-out began and four runners, Don Gorrie of Oxford University included, steadily dropped him into sixth place over the final 100 yards. Lawrenz won in 1min. 50.8sec., to rob Douglas Lowe of the track record he made when winning the 1928 Olympic final. Reinnagel, of Germany, was second in 1min. 52.4sec. and Gorrie third in 1min. 52.9sec. Pirie wanted to get in a fast 1,500



GORDON PIRIE  
... „recordjacht is waardeloos” ..





The start of Pirie's attempt on the 3-mile world record. Pirie is on the inside lane, then come Peter Driver, Martin Walmsley and Bob Beecroft, with John Disley on the outside.

## PIRIE WITHIN 3.4 SECONDS OF WORLD RECORD

By DOUG WILSON

GORDON PIRIE and Brian Hewson failed in their attempts to lower the world records for the three miles and the 1,000 metres at the White City, Manchester, last night—but never have there been more gallant failures.

The 20,000 capacity crowd cheered them to the echo as they fought their way against the clock and the wind in two of the most brilliant athletic efforts ever seen in Manchester. Pirie returned 13min. 29.8sec for the three miles, which failed by 3.4sec. to equal the world record established by Russia's Vladimir Kuts last year. Hewson, who clocked 2min. 20.2sec. for the 1,000 metres, was seven-tenths of a second outside the world record, held by Audun Boysen, of Norway.

What a man this Gordon Pirie is! Three days ago he was a tired, beaten, and dejected athlete, but last night he simply sparkled.

Five runners started, and Martin Walmsley, the Manchester University chemical student, set the pace. He maintained it for the first mile, covered in 4min. 27.6sec.

### Disley's part

At this stage Pirie was lying close behind him, with Peter Driver third and John Disley fourth. As Walmsley tired, Disley took over and led for another half-mile. The time at this point was 6min. 39.4sec.

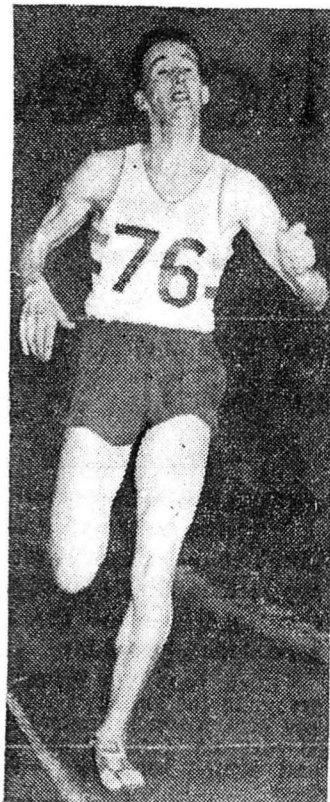
Disley began to tire, but kept the lead until just before the two-mile mark, reached in 8min. 53.8sec.

Pirie now took over, and the further he went the bigger gap he put between himself and Driver.

The crowd sensed the possibility of a world record and cheered the gallant Pirie to the echo, but the record was just too much for him.

He said to me afterwards: "I felt fine until the last half-mile, and then I really began to feel that wind."

Asked what he thought he could do under good conditions, he replied: "I think I could knock a good ten seconds off Kuts's time."



Gordon Pirie breaks the tape at the end of his 3-mile run at White City, Manchester, last night.

Eight leading middle distance runners, all of them record holders and six of them internationals, lined up for the three-quarter mile.

Half way round the first lap Pirie went into the lead closely followed by E. Shirley, the British 3,000 metres steeplechase record holder, and B. W. Jackson. Time for the first quarter was 61 secs.

In the second lap Shirley, F. Wyatt (who has done a mile in 4 mins. 5.8 secs.) and Jackson, all went in front of Pirie and at the bell the time was 2 mins. 0.4 secs.

### INTO LEAD

Midway through the last lap little Barrett, the former Surrey mile record holder, tore into the lead closely followed by Jackson. Pirie, who seemed to be running to plan unperturbed by his rivals, sensed the danger, but cut off from the inside position, was forced into a desperate spurt to round his opponents.

Down the straight they pounded, Pirie and Jackson side by side with Barrett on their heels. As the leaders thrust themselves through the tape many in the crowd excitedly shouted "Dead heat" while several of Jackson's team-mates who ran to help him as he slumped, thought he had earned the verdict.

By contrast Pirie trotted confidently for his track suit apparently quite unaffected by his exertions. Barrett was a good third, only .6 secs. behind the first two and Wyatt was fourth in 3 mins. 1.8 secs.

This is believed to be the first occasion that four runners in a three-quarter mile have all finished inside 3 mins. 2 secs.

## This man Gordon Pirie

GORDON PIRIE, the crack runner, jogs up and down, round and round, alone—almost aloof—limbering up for the big race. . . .

Gordon Pirie, the crack runner, attempting records twice and thrice a week, fails by 2.8sec. to equal Brian Hewson's three-quarter-mile time of 2min. 55.4sec. and is nearly beaten by Brian Jackson (Essex Beagles), who is credited with the same time. . . .

Gordon Pirie, the crack runner, jogs up and down, round and round the practice ground "cooling down" after the race, in the midst of a field of 16 small boys

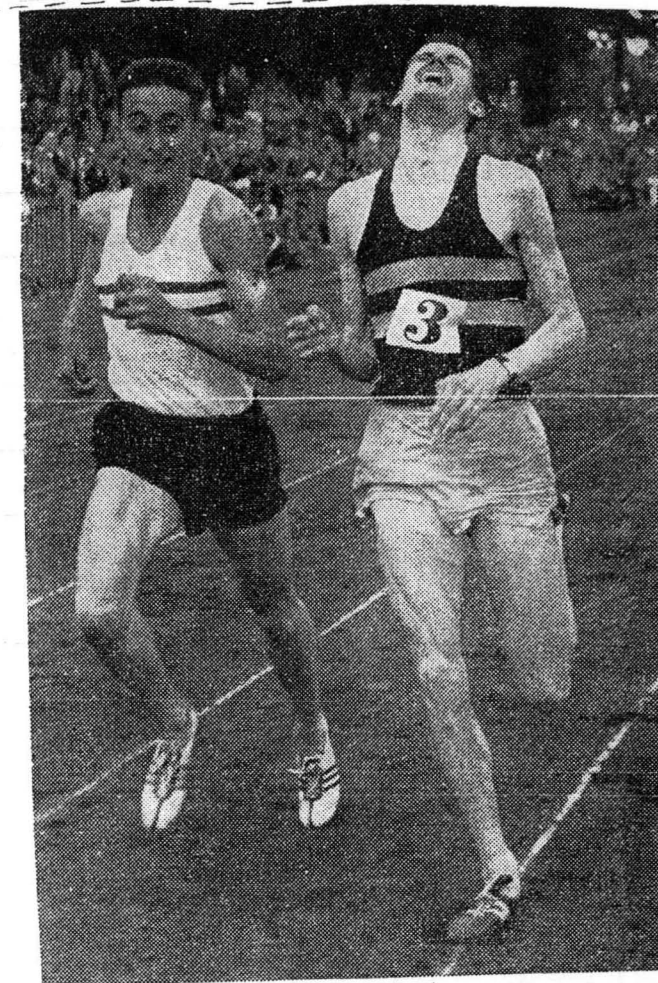
and three small girls, who do about two miles with him, but he ignores them. . . .

Gordon Pirie, the man, is surrounded by 30 or 40 boys and girls waving autograph books as he leaves the arena to change from running kit.

Unexpectedly, he flops down on the grass banking and, with a heap of young hero-worshippers smothering him, he signs autograph books, notebooks, even pieces of paper for nearly 20 minutes.

It all happened at the Southgate Harriers meeting. He's a human machine, this Pirie.

WHO can be surprised, after seeing this admirable picture, that the timekeepers could not separate Gordon Pirie (left) and B. W. Jackson, seen hurtling to the tape in the thrilling three-quarter mile invitation race at the "Beverley Baxter" Trophy Meeting in Broomfield Park on Saturday? Pirie was adjudged the winner, and both he and Jackson were credited with 2 minutes 58.2 seconds, which is 2.8 seconds outside the British record.







**OUTDOORS:** No need to ask—Is there a star about? Young boys, old boys, and an odd girl out chase after the slight young man in light track-suit and jersey. The star, if you have not identified him by now, is Gordon Pirie, after breaking the world record for the

1 1/2 miles at a track in Paddington. Hence the reason for the hero-worshippers to get near him. But why even trot round the track again after such an effort? It's called "warming down"—the athlete's term for cooling off so that muscles do not seize up.

**Gordon wins  
—but keeps  
on running**

## DAZED PIRIE SLAMS WORLD RECORD

By RALPH HEWINS

**GORDON PIRIE**, Britain's iron man of athletics, set a world's best time for one and a half miles with 6min. 26sec. at Paddington last night.

After he broke the tape hundreds of screaming children broke from the 4,000 crowd and ran round the track with him.

The previous best for the distance—not recognised for world records purposes—was by Hungarian Sandor Iharos with 6min. 31.2sec., which Pirie beat by 5.2sec.

Pirie won by 30 yards from "unknown" John Thorpe (St. Albans City and Ken Norris. Thorpe's time of 6min. 30.8sec. and Norris's 6min. 31sec.) also beat Iharos's time.

### Dissatisfied

This was Pirie's second record attempt within four days and was crowned with astonishing success against the expectations of experts, who said that his programme was ridiculous.

Last night Pirie, as ever, was dissatisfied with himself—even though he had run five seconds inside the record.

"It's not very good. I had hoped to do 6min. 14sec. So few people run 1 1/2 miles," he said.

He was a bundle of nerves at the start. He shook hands with officials in a daze.

With several people he knew quite well he shook hands three times as if he did not know them.

He went into the lead in the first back straight, forged further ahead after each lap. Times for these were — 61.2sec.; 2min. 3.6sec.; 3min. 8sec.; 4min. 13.6sec.; 5min. 21.2sec.; and 6min. 26sec.

Pirie almost sprinted the last lap of this gruelling and lonely race.



An admiring child runs alongside Pirie after his world 1 1/2-mile record run at Paddington.

## Pirie breaks world record for 1 1/2 miles

By ROY MOOR

**GORDON PIRIE** broke the world's unofficial record for one and a half miles by 5.2sec. at Paddington last night. His time—6min. 26sec.

Johnny Thorpe, of St. Albans, in second place, and Ken Norris (Thames Valley), third, were also inside the previous world best, which stands to Sandor Iharos, of Hungary, at 6 minutes 31.2 seconds.

Thorpe, 40 yards behind Pirie, was clocked in at 6min. 30.8 and Norris, another yard away, 6min. 31.0sec.

Ralph Dunkley (Poly), with 6min. 33.2sec., also finished inside Chris Chataway's official English native record set at 6min. 33.4sec. last year.

### Quick start

First words by Pirie when he heard the official time last night were: "Too slow. I should have been faster."

Pirie, drawn on the outside of seven starters, soon took command. After Mike Schofield had led round the first bend Pirie moved strongly away from the field, passing the quarter-mile in 61.2sec., 20 yards ahead of his nearest rival.

At the half mile, reached in 2min. 3.2sec., Pirie had increased his lead to 25 yards over Norris and Dunkley. At the three-quarter mile, 3min. 8sec., he was 50 yards up on the field and he had lost none of his ground when he passed the mile mark in 4min. 13.6sec.

### Tonight again

He was still 50 yards in front at 1 1/2 miles (6min. 21.2sec.), but in the last-lap struggle for second place Thorpe and Norris managed to pull back a few yards.

Pirie will race over 2,000 metres at Croydon tonight and over three miles on the same track on Saturday.

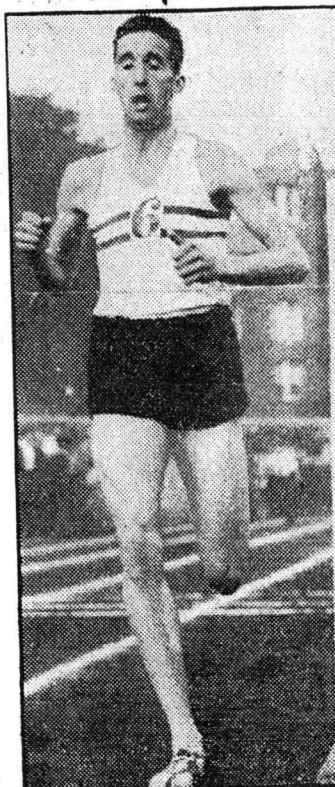
Big surprise of the race was the performance of Thorpe in finishing second in such fast time. He is little-known in top-class athletics.

Thorpe, Insurance A.A. three-mile champion, travels every Sunday from St. Albans to Hampstead for special coaching under Johnny Hovell, the Finchley international. "Johnny has the makings of a really great athlete," said Hovell.

Pirie has his critics for his recent planned record attempts, but you won't find one among these Paddington children swarming round their hero.



**Home  
by 40  
yards**



**GORDON PIRIE**

First past the post, 40 yards ahead of his nearest rival—a great thrill for 7,000 spectators. Children leapt the rails to fete him and 400 chased him as he eased his way round the track in a characteristic Pirie "warming down" run

## PIRIE PUTS U WORLD'S BES

**GORDON PIRIE** scored one of his biggest triumphs last night when he won the 1 1/2-mile and-a-half invitation race at Paddington in the world time of 6min. 26sec.

Previous best unofficial was 6min. 31.2sec. by Sandor Iharos, of Hungary.

Pirie went ahead after yards. The farther he went greater his lead became, and won by fully 60 yards.

Pirie's lap times:

First: 61.2sec.  
Second: 2min. 3.6sec.  
Third: 3min. 8sec.  
Fourth: 4min. 13.6sec.  
Fifth: 5min. 21.2sec.  
Time: 6min. 26sec.

Result: 1, G. Pirie (South Lo A.C.), 6min. 26sec.; 2, J. Thorpe (St. Albans A.C.), 6min. 30.8sec. (also a record); 3, K. Norris (Thames Valley), 6min.



CROYDON SPORTS ARENA. 1955.



Gordon Pirie all alone.

ONCE more Gordon Pirie proved that he is one of the two biggest draws in British athletics when he turned out for a special 2,000 metres invitation race at the Croydon Stadium last night—24 hours after putting up a new world best time for the mile and a half.

But this time the thousands who swarmed round the track in the lovely sunny evening to see this one-mile 427.2 yard race were not lucky enough to witness Pirie shatter another world record.

He returned 5m. 10s.—three seconds outside the world record of the Belgian, Gaston Reiff, 0.6 seconds outside Chris Chataway's British record and 0.2 seconds outside Pirie's own best time for the distance.

### SHOT HIS BOLT

Actually, Pirie might have beaten his own best time and conceivably have put up a new British record had it not been for an incident just after the end of the fourth lap of this five-lap event.

Brian Jackson, the twenty-five-year-old Essex runner, had actually passed Pirie after three and three-quarter laps, but then he shot his bolt.

Instead of waiting for Pirie to pass him, however, he ran on to the grass verge just beyond where I was squatting, and Pirie very nearly crashed into him, having to check his stride and throw out his arms to avoid a full tilt collision.

From then on, of course, Pirie was all on his own, and any chance of a world record dwindled with each inexorable tick of the stop-watch.

### PUSHED TOO HARD

Pirie had been timed at 4m. 8.6s. for the mile, but the last 427.2 yards took him 61.4s.

He had, in fact, been pushed too hard at the start. For the first quarter was run in 59.4s.—much too fast for this distance—and the half at 2m. 2.7s. was still a little too speedy.

Afterwards Pirie refused to alibi.

At first he said:

"The bump did upset me."

But later he grinned and said to me:

"Oh, well, perhaps I'd have collapsed if I hadn't had someone to hold on to!"

The fact of the matter is that even for phenomenal Pirie an attempt on two world records on successive nights is just too much.

And, of course, he is scheduled to run a three-mile record attempt at this same stadium on Saturday.

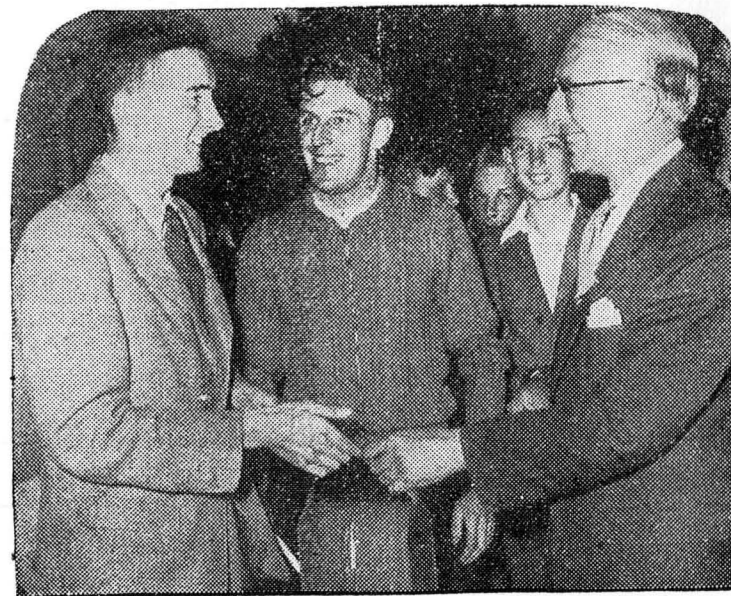
### SLOW PUNCTURE

There is no doubt that personalities like Pirie are drawing unparalleled crowds to what would normally be unimportant athletic meetings.

But I wonder whether these constant record attempts on varying distances—not all of them championship ones—with various competitors only in there to run certain stretches with the intention of producing a specific time for one man, are really in the best interest of amateur athletics.

Certainly, they do not produce the best competitive races.

To see one man striding home alone many yards ahead and then to learn that he has not anyway broken the elusive time record, is inclined to give one a let-down like a slow puncture.



Gordon Pirie was unlucky in his attempt on the world's 2,000 metres record at Wednesday night's big athletics meeting at the Croydon municipal sports arena, Albert-road, but he was smiling cheerfully when he received congratulations on a very fine effort from Mr. F. W. Cranmer, managing director of the

2,000 METRES INVITATION RACE.



ADDISCOMBE'S Derek Clark (number four) leads in the first lap of the world 2,000-metres record attempt at Croydon Sports Arena on Wednesday evening. At his elbow is Barber, of the Darnley club (10) and, from left, Gordon Pirie (2), Stewart, of the Poly. (18), Millward, of Victoria Park (6), and Norman Lloyd, of Mitcham (1).

## NAUGHTY WORDS..

Gordon Pirie, missing record, uses them to pacemaker

Express Staff Reporter

HARD luck for Gordon Pirie—he missed a world record at Croydon last night. Hard words—swear words—for his pacemaker, Brian Jackson.

Jackson threw Pirie out of his stride at the vital point of the champion's attack on the record for 2,000 metres (427 yards more than a mile).

Pirie was almost barged off the track—and failed by three seconds to reach Gaston Reiff's 1949 figure of 5min. 7sec.

At the end, struggling to keep his temper, he burst out: "I am saying nothing—except some swear words."

Then he turned to 25-year-old Jackson.

"You should have gone off the outside of the track and let me through on the inside," he said.

"Instead you stepped straight in front of me. Very careless."

Jackson, only two years in big-time athletics, said: "These champions ask you to run yourself out to help them break records, then complain if everything doesn't go quite to suit them."

Then he said: "One day I'll beat him just to show him."



Gordon Pirie pulls away from D. G. Stewart (Polytechnic H



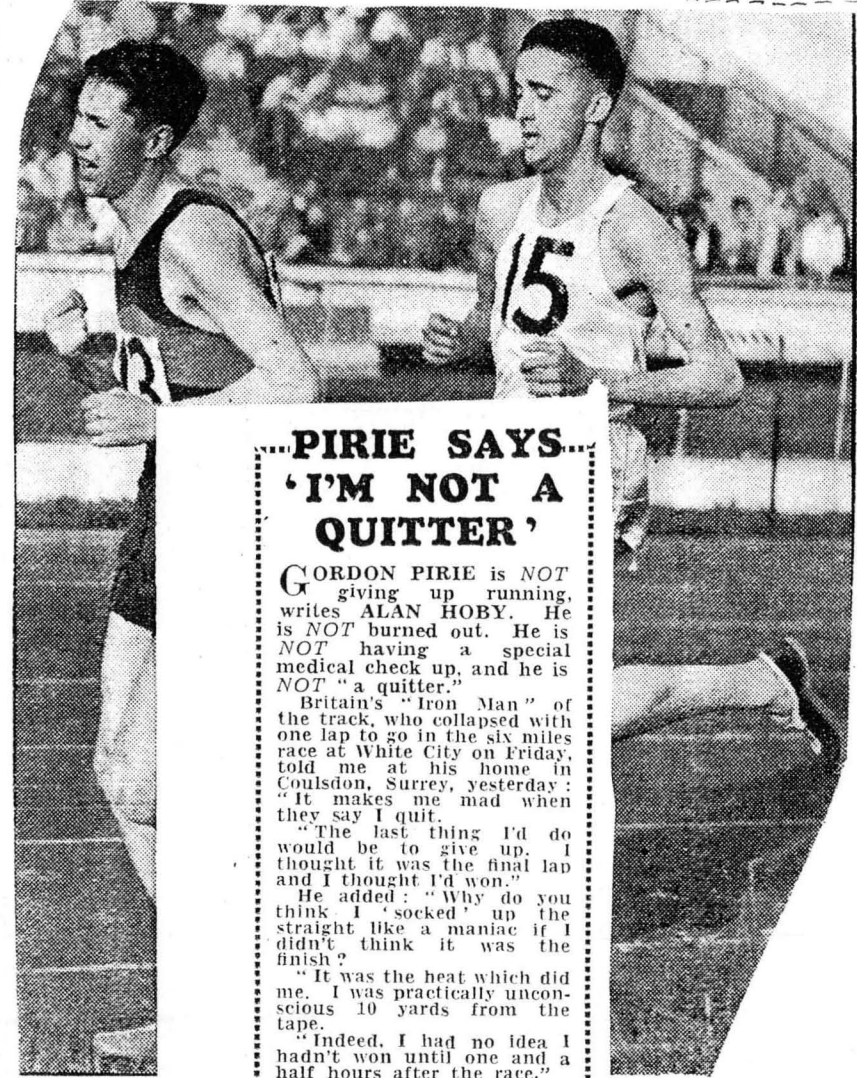
6 MILES.

A.A.A.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

WHITE CITY,

1955.



### PIRIE SAYS 'I'M NOT A QUITTER'

GORDON PIRIE is NOT giving up running, writes ALAN HOBY. He is NOT burned out. He is NOT having a special medical check up, and he is NOT "a quitter."

Britain's "Iron Man" of the track, who collapsed with one lap to go in the six miles race at White City on Friday, told me at his home in Coulsdon, Surrey, yesterday: "It makes me mad when they say I quit."

"The last thing I'd do would be to give up. I thought it was the final lap and I thought I'd won."

He added: "Why do you think I 'socked' up the straight like a maniac if I didn't think it was the finish?"

"It was the heat which did me. I was practically unconscious 10 yards from the tape."

"Indeed, I had no idea I hadn't won until one and a half hours after the race."

### He relaxes

"Puff puff" Pirie, who was relaxing in the garden, scoffed at suggestions that his "murderous" training schedule had caused his collapse.

Gordon, who looked pale but well, said: "That's rubbish. I know they are saying I am burned out. They are always saying it. Well, I don't give a damn what they say."

"This changes nothing. I'm definitely going on running with my target the 5,000 or 10,000 metres at the Olympic Games next year."

The doctors have ordered 24-year-old Pirie to rest for a fortnight before doing any racing.

He will spend the week-end "relaxing" but will be out training again early next week.

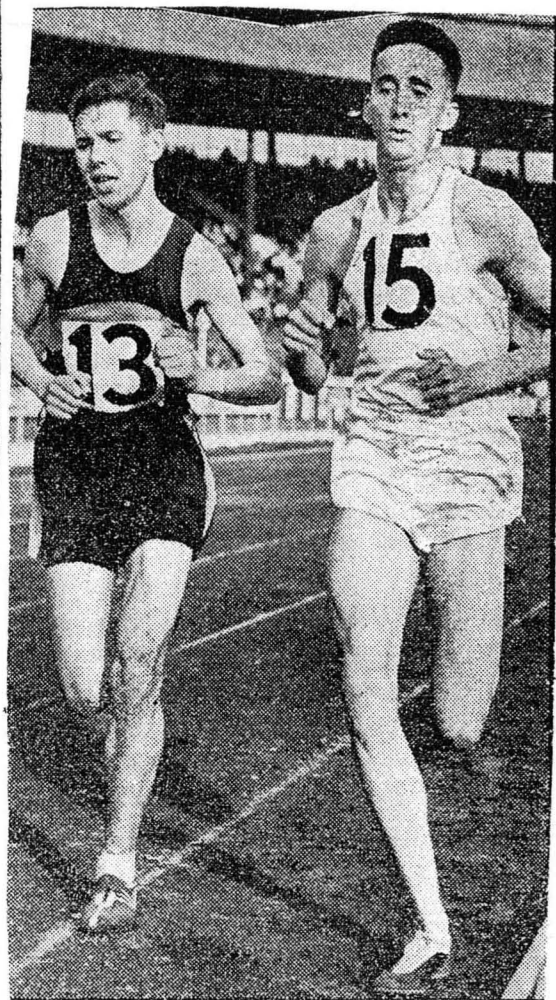
Pirie maintains that he is completely fit despite what has been said to the contrary.

### The hard way

What beat him? "You learn the hard way," he replied. "I didn't have a drink on the day of the race except for a glass of squash at lunchtime."

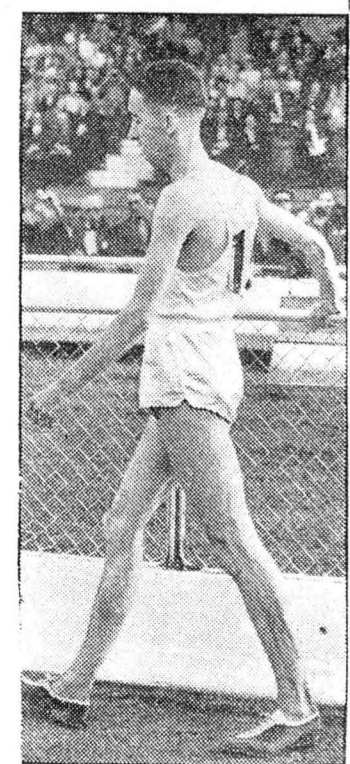
"During the first two miles of the race I perspired. Then I went as dry as a bone. Not enough liquid."

Why did he misjudge the laps? Says Pirie: "In such conditions you get into a state of exhaustion when you don't count the laps or hear the bell or even the crowd shouting at you."



Just before the Pirie collapse. He seems to be running well, and it is Ken Norris who looks in trouble.

### HELPING HAND



GORDON PIRIE holds on to the railings

### Track Drama

# Ken Norris races Pirie out of six miles



Drama on the White City track . . . Gordon Pirie battles it out with winner Ken Norris (top left). But the effort was too much. Pirie stops, grabs the fence for support, is helped off the track, then collapses.

GORDON PIRIE created the athletic sensation of the year when he dropped out of the Amateur Athletic Association's six-mile championship at London's White City last night with a lap still to be covered. And while the crowd were bemused and bewildered, Ken Norris, 23-year-old Wembley sports goods salesman, went on to win, completely unchallenged, in 29min. 0.6sec. from Frank Sando and J. Heywood.

The heat had much to do with Pirie's eclipse—the doctor who examined him as he lay prostrate on the track diagnosed neat exhaustion. But when I spoke to him in the dressing-room later Pirie said: "I thought I had won."

"I did not realise I had been beaten until somebody told me when I was under the shower."

Undoubtedly, this is true, but in my opinion Pirie could not have gone on for another lap.

It was a great victory for Norris. He ran his famous rival right out of the race!

The crucial point came after Pirie had made a desperate effort to regain the lead from Norris on the 23rd lap. But here is the story from the start.

### Out in front

Ian Binnie (Victoria Park A.A.C., Glasgow) raced to the front. At the end of the first lap Binnie led, with Pirie on his heels. Pirie took over at the half-mile (2m. 18.6s.), and they came up to the mile post (4m. 58s.) with Pirie, Norris, and Binnie in that order.

At two miles the trio were in the same order. The time registering 5m. 21s.

Norris then tried to take the initiative, but Pirie would not have it. The crowd urged on the Thames Valley Harrier. Again Norris went up to Pirie, and once more the British record holder fought him off.

Just as they came up to the three miles Norris managed to thrust himself in front, and Pirie, surprisingly, seemed content to let his rival take the burden from him. Time at three miles, 14m. 12s.

### Procession

At this stage Sando, Herwood, A. Brown (R.A.F.), D. O'Gorman (St. Albans) were running in a bunch, more than 100 yards behind. So the procession went on.

Then came that last lap but one. Pirie got the lead down the back straight, lost it again, and then made one supreme effort to get in front.

But the sound of the bell, which has saved so many fighters, proved Pirie's death-knell as far as this race was concerned.

He pulled up as if he had miscounted the laps, then, slowly and

By  
**DOUG WILSON**

painfully, staggered off the track, assisted by officials. He lay on the ground receiving attention for a good half-hour.

Norris said to me: "Of course I felt the heat. It was hell. I sensed Gordon was finding the race tough when, after overtaking me, he slowed the pace."

"But I was amazed, and very relieved, when I found I was by myself for that last lap."

The heat—79 in the shade—affected all the runners. From the 15 starters, only six finished.

*I did win, didn't I?  
he asks*

By FRANK McGHEE

HALF an hour after his five and three quarter miles ordeal by heat Gordon Pirie was still lying, ashen faced and trembling, on a dressing room bench.

The first really coherent words he whispered as he raised his head weakly were: "I KNEW I'D WIN."

There was dead silence.

A little louder and a lot more anxiously Pirie muttered: "I DID WIN. DIDN'T I?"

Still nobody spoke.

Nobody had the heart to tell him he'd collapsed with a lap to go.

I was at Pirie's side within minutes of his dramatic collapse.

He was lying like a man in a trance, obviously too weak to know where he was or what had happened.

### Twitching

A.A.A. masseur Mick Mays and two St. John Ambulance men wrapped him in blankets and rubbed his twitching legs.

He was picked up and helped towards the cool dressing room tunnel.

After three faltering steps he weakly begged to be put down and called for a drink with salt.

"I've had nothing to drink all day," he gasped.

It was another fifteen minutes before he could be carried off.

In the dressing room Mays told me:

"This is exactly what happened to Jim Peters when he collapsed in the Empire Games marathon. It is heat exhaustion."

I asked winner Ken Norris what it had been like.

He gave me a blunt four-word answer: "IT WAS LIKE HELL."



Gordon Pirie after he collapsed

Grilled, I but gallant ris (left) Pirie's chall and soon h one left to b

Gordon Pirie receives first-aid after collapsing at the White City, London, last night



3,000 METRES INVITATION RACE, CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS, HURLINGHAM, 1955.

## Pirie back, says 'too hot for record'

GORDON PIRIE, after a seven-lap canter, followed by a fast 220 yards, won an invitation 3,000 metres in 8min. 32.8sec. at Hurlingham, London, yesterday.

It was his first race since he collapsed in the A.A.A. championships eight days ago. He said afterwards: "I am quite satisfied with my form. It was no good going for a fast time today; the air was too hot and too heavy."

Pirie did not have sufficient opposition to get near Thar's world record (7min. 55.6sec.). Of the original field of four, three did not start, and of the four substitutes only Eddie Ellis (Thames Valley) has any reputation as a distance runner.

## PIRIE KEEPS HIS PROMISE

WERE the selectors right in leaving Gordon Pirie out of Britain's team against Germany next week-end on the ground that he is "not 100 per cent. fit?"

Gordon, who won't have it that he is running too much, made a surprise reappearance on Saturday following his collapse (It wasn't a collapse, I thought I'd won.") in the A.A.A. Championships a week ago, but he made no attempt on the track to answer the unfitness charge—writes *George Chisholm*.

He ran in an invitation 3,000 metres at the Civil Service sports at Hurlingham to fulfil a promise, which he was unable to keep last year.

It was just a training canter for Gordon in a scratch field of five and he strolled home in 8min. 32.8sec. World record is 7min. 55.6sec.

SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS -V- MORROMA (NORWAY) AND OLD RUSSHIANS  
MERTON PARK, 1955.

Mile: 1. D. A. G. Pirie (S.L.H.), 4m. 17.4s. (Ground Record); 2. C. Wilson (S.L.H.), 4m. 31.2s.; 3. E. Kjellevoid (N.), 4m. 31.2s.; 4. D. G. Smith (S.L.H.), 4m. 35.4s.; 5. J. Simmons (O.R.); 6. R. A. Frewin (O.R.); 7. D. Rasmussen (N.).

SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS AND MORROMA (NORWAY) -V- DORKING AND DISTRICT  
DORKING, 1955.

Med. Relay: (2 laps, 1 lap,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lap,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lap; lap of 352 yds.). 1. N./S.L.H. (D. A. G. Pirie, B. A. Cox, E. Linde, F. J. Parker), 2m. 47.8s. (new ground record); 2. D. & D. (Maxted, Styles, Larter, Wells), 2m. 48.4s.

3 MILES, WATFORD SPORTS, 1955.



What are they looking at? Why are they cheering? Now look right—and there's the answer. "Puff-puff" Pirie wins yet another three-miles race... this time at the Woodside athletics meeting. And he was as fresh as if he had only crossed the road.



Gordon Pirie was Target No. 1 for the young autograph hunters after he had won the three-mile race.

## PIRIE IS PLEASED WITH WOODSIDE

GORDON PIRIE and Brian Hewson were mighty pleased with the new Woodside running track on Monday — the track which can bring big-time athletics to Watford.

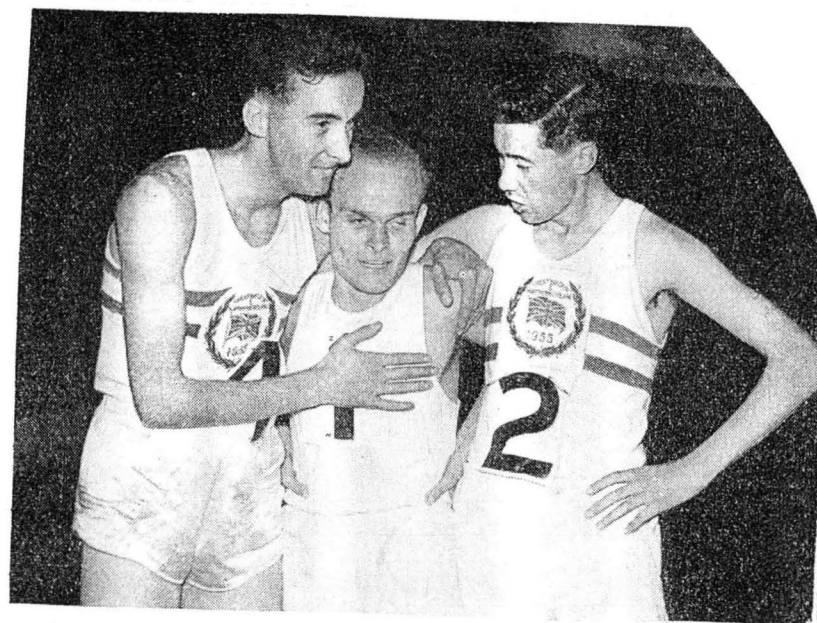
Said Pirie, who won the three miles invitation in 14 minutes 24.2 seconds, "It's as good as the White City."

Pirie's time, although over a minute outside the new world record set up on Saturday by Chris Chataway, was good considering he had to make his own pace from the start. He regarded the event as a training run.

The only time he had a pace-maker was after two and a half miles when he lapped P. R. Webb of Watford Harriers. Pirie tucked in behind him for half a lap before surging ahead to win by 100 yards from his brother, Peter Pirie.

Asked "What do you think you would have recorded had you been pressed?" Pirie replied, "I don't know what I am capable of."





BRITISH GAMES AND GREAT BRITAIN v. HUNGARY MATCH, 1955  
D. A. G. PIRIE and K. L. NORRIS consoling J. KOVACS after defeating him in the Six Mile Match event.

truly great races in the Great Britain-Hungary international at London's White City last night.

He won the six miles in 28m. 36s. with Ken Norris second, and the Hungarian ace, Jozsef Kovacs, trailing well over 100 yards behind.

This wasn't a world record. It was, indeed, 16.6 seconds outside Pirie's own best time for the distance, but never has "Legs" Pirie run a better tactical race and never has a winner had more loyal support from a "second string."

And don't forget that this "second string" was the same man who beat Pirie a few weeks ago in the red-dust heat of the A.A.A. Championships, when Pirie collapsed after 5½ miles.

Last night there was no question of collapse. It was cool in the artificial lights. Pirie and Norris set off on the long road, followed by Kovacs and Miklas Szabo, the pale, bald Hungarian No. 2.

### Merry-go-round

For five laps they ran in that order, seemingly as fixed under the lights as painted horses in a merry-go-round.

There was no sense of strain or speed. Their order seemed a permanency.

Then, half way through the sixth lap, came the first change. Pirie seemed to look for Norris, and Ken was right there to take the lead and hold it up to the end of two miles, with Kovacs having moved up to split the two British runners.

Then it was Gordon's turn again. HE took the lead up to the end of the third mile, Kovacs having dropped back to third place.

Now it was nip-and-tuck, with Pirie and Norris ping-ponging the lead between them as lap after lap unreel. . . . Norris after 13, Pirie after 14 and 15, Norris at four miles and again after 17 laps.

All this time Kovacs was like a tiny frustrated gnome trying to force his way through an enchanted wood where the tantalising tree trunks were the two British runners.

### Tangle of Legs

After four and half miles he made his effort.

Pirie had sprinted to pass him just at the end of the 18th lap, with Norris third.

Then Kovacs re-passed and Pirie was obviously having to run faster than he wanted to at this stage to keep anywhere near the Hungarian who for the first time saw clear daylight instead of the dense shadow of the Englishmen's bodies and the tangle of their weaving legs.

After nineteen laps, Kovacs was still two or three yards clear of Pirie, and Norris . . . where was he? Oh, he looked to be well out of it—as Szabo had been for over a mile.

Ken was trailing some thirty yards

behind and to make up a cricket pitch and a third in this type of race qualifies for the near-impossible.

So Norris did just that —AND IN ONE LAP.

At five miles, or twenty laps, they were back to the old merry-go-round progression—with one important difference. Kovacs was leading.

He was leading after twenty-one, too, and now the crowd were almost buffeting the runners with the gusts of their roars.

But the noise we had heard so far was as nothing to the almighty but disciplined pandemonium which broke out when, at 21½ laps, Pirie passed Kovacs, and Norris—the unbelievable, game, gutsy Norris—passed Pirie.

So at 22 it was Norris, Pirie—and Kovacs way back.

### Remorseless

At 23 laps, it was the same, only Kovacs was even further behind, out of the race with a quarter of a mile to go, hung, drawn and quartered by the remorseless team-work of a great pair who had been asked, weeks ago, to run as a two-edged sword and not to have a private "dust up."

But now it was all right, for maximum points were assured for Britain, and Pirie, that lean, grey destroyer shape of his tingling to go, moved into top gear.

He took the lead as he

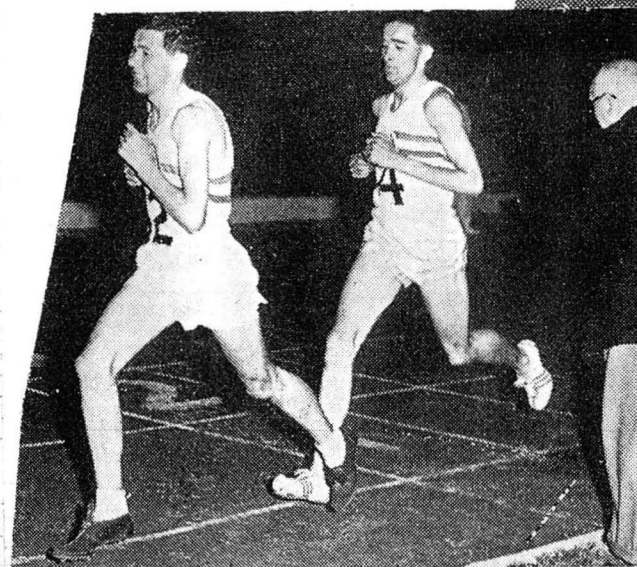
liked in the final back straight and came pelting and puffing into the straight like a champion indeed.

And, as he split the worsted, there were cheers for Pirie because he had won. And, before they could die away, there were the cheers for Norris because he had run a true race and had acted as the anvil to Pirie's hammer, between which deadly combination the Hungarians had been



### Victory for Britain . . .

Pirie puffs home to win the six miles last night.



NORRIS (No. 2) and GORDON PIRIE in one of their typical races over six miles this season. This picture was taken in the Great Britain-Hungary match.

This was Gordon Pirie at the finish of his great six miles race



Tour of CANADA 1955.

1 MILE in TORONTO.

By WILF SMITH

A dawdling third quarter, run in a record-frustrating 71.1 seconds, cost Wes Santee another bid for the four-minute mile Saturday at Varsity Stadium.

The lean Marine from Kansas easily won the Legion Day match race against Fred Dwyer, of the United States Army, and England's Gordon Pirie. But his time of 4:11.1 was far off his objective.

Santee put on a furious sprint in the last 220 yards to finish 15 yards ahead of Dwyer, who edged Pirie out of second place in the final stride. Both Dwyer and Pirie were clocked in 4:13.2. The last quarter was run in 57 seconds, but by then Santee's chances of breaking the four-minute barrier had evaporated in the intense 93-degree heat of the stadium.

The first quarter was completed in 59 seconds, and the second in 64. Thus, for those three

quarters the 23-year-old ex-Kansas University flash was traveling at a pace that could have produced a 4:00.0 mile. But the 71.1 third lap wrecked his chances.

Santee didn't appear disappointed over yet another failure. "I'm in better condition than I expected," he admitted. "Considering I haven't had much opportunity to train seriously, I'm not unhappy about the time. It was just too hot to run faster."

The 6,700 sweltering onlookers probably would agree that under the conditions a four-minute mile was highly improbable. But they witnessed an exciting race, nonetheless.

Bruce Lockerbie, a London, Ont., native who now runs for New York University, was a fourth starter. A half-miler, his job was to set the pace, and he jumped into the lead at the gun.

Lockerbie, Pirie, Dwyer and Santee raced Indian-file through the first lap, and there was no change in positions in the second. After completing the half-mile in 2:03, Lockerbie dropped out, and that left the race without a pace-setter.

Pirie had the lead, followed by Dwyer and Santee through the third lap but none of the three wanted to step up the pace. They completed three laps in 3:14.1, and Dwyer and Santee moved up on Pirie entering the last quarter.

Santee overtook Pirie along the backstretch and left his rivals behind with a dazzling finishing kick in the final 220 yards. Pirie appeared to have second place won but slowed near the finish and Dwyer nipped him in the last lunge.

All three agreed the heat was mainly responsible for the disappointing time. Conditions had been expected to favor Santee, who set his U.S. mile mark of 4:00.5 when the temperature was 90 in Texas.

"I'd sooner have it hot than cold, but this was too humid," Santee said. He had no complaints about the track itself.

Pirie, whose best mile time is 4:05.2, appeared most disappointed.

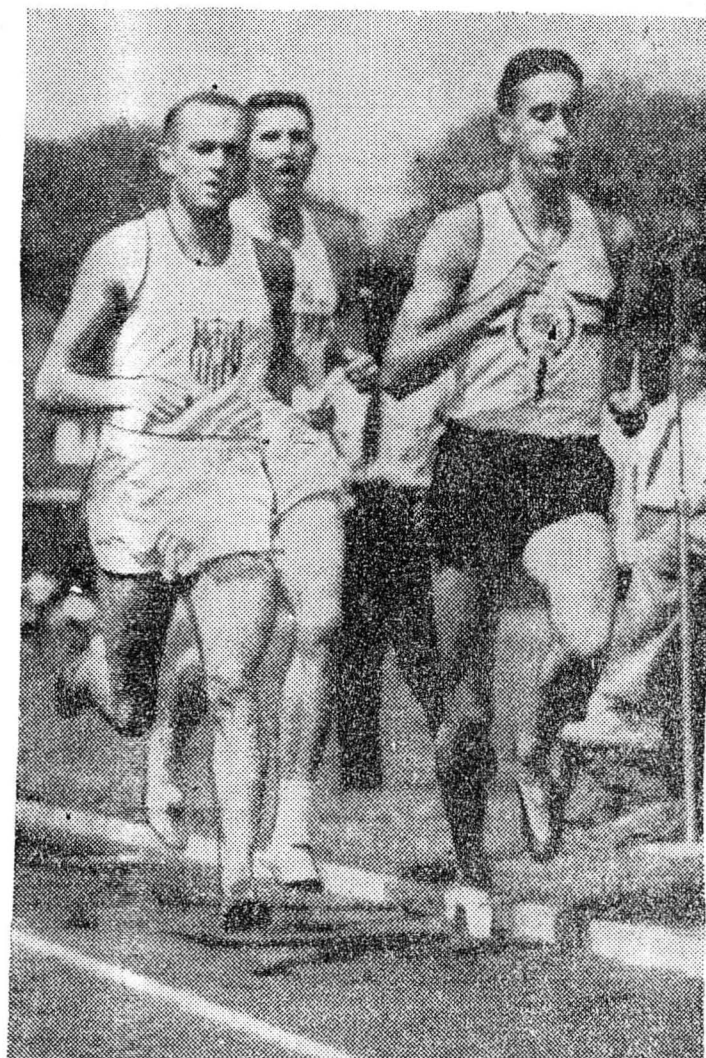
"Wasn't that rubbish?" he asked when someone mentioned the time. "But it was just too hot."

Gordon's brother, Peter, failed by less than three seconds to break the Canadian native two-mile mark, although he captured the race easily in 9:25.2 minutes.

It was the fourth fastest mile raced in Canada, although far off the 3:58.8 turned in by England's Roger Bannister in the "miracle mile" at the British Empire Games last year. Australia's John Landy holds the world record of 3:58.

Bannister, Landy, Sandoz Iharos, of Hungary, Brian Hewson and Chris Chataway of England, are the only milers ever to break four minutes.

One mile, special—1. Wes Santee, U.S. Marines; 2. Fred Dwyer, U.S. Army; 3. Gordon Pirie, London, England. Time, 4:11.1.



—Globe and Mail.

Wes Santee was lying in third place at the three-quarter mark (above) of the Legion Day match mile race Saturday at Varsity Stadium. But at the finish (right) the lean Kansan was all by himself, 15 yards ahead of Fred Dwyer and Gordon Pirie, who were only a step apart. At the end of the third lap Pirie was still in front, although Dwyer was starting to make his move. Santee was content to stay off the pace until the last 220 yards when he won easily with a strong sprint.

3 MILES in EXETER.

## Exeter Crowd Thrilled By Gordon Pirie

Exeter, Aug. 25—(CP)—Britain's Gordon Pirie, former holder of the world record for a six-mile run, yesterday fell short of beating the record for three miles in a contest here. But hundreds of district residents lining the specially-built track said it was the finest running they had ever seen.

Pirie's time, with a field of five

Canadians behind him, was second in 14.50 with Dick Carmichael of the Toronto Olympic Club third in 15.01; John Vamp, established by Chris Chataway, fourth, and Al Bosman of the Sympathetic supporters, however, said the odds were definitely against him with no near-pres-sure and a freshly-built track. of London dropped out in the Gordon's brother, Peter, came early stages.

2,000 METRES  
HAMILTON, ONTARIO  
Pirie beats  
Dwyer over  
2,000 metres

GORDON PIRIE, the British runner now touring Canada, beat American Fred Dwyer by 50 yards in a 2,000 metres invitation race at Hamilton, Ontario, last night.

Pirie, who had hoped to attack Gaston Reiff's world record of 5min. 7sec., found the track too wet, but returned 5min. 18.6sec.

He turned on a last-lap burst to draw away from Dwyer, who, with Wes Santee, had beaten Pirie in a mile race at Toronto a week ago.

## C'EST TERRIBLE—IT'S FRENCH FOR 'WHAT NO PIRIE?'

From Clifford Webb

BORDEAUX, Friday.—

French athletic officials here are bitterly disappointed that Gordon Pirie will not be running for Great Britain in the match against France tomorrow and Sunday.

Ever since the British team was first announced, Pirie has been publicised in France as the star attraction.

There were repeated assurances that his visit to Canada would not interfere with his plans to compete in the 10,000 metres against his old Helsinki Olympics rival, Alain Mimoun.

I travelled today with the French team and the official in charge told me: "It is too bad. We already had to accept that British track stars like Chris Chataway, Ken Norris, John Disley and Thelma Hopkins would not be available."

"Now comes the big Pirie shock at the last minute. Those who have bought tickets in advance will be very angry."

EAGER

Mimoun, who was second to



**THE** incredible Gordon Pirie will be the showman of England when he races Vladimir Kuc in the 10,000 metres in the British-Russian athletics match at the Dynamo Stadium on Sunday.

The Russians have just about admitted that they have no one to equal Chris (Runaway) Chataway over 5,000 metres.

So that unforgettable White City race when Chataway led Kuc by four paces will never again be seen.

Chataway's rivals will be Ivan Chernyanski, who has played second man to Kuc over the season, and Nikolai Pudov.

But the Pirie-Kuc event is really steaming up. Both the highly confident runners have said they will make a new world record.

Pirie has already left the Russians gasping.

He turned up at the Dynamo Stadium this morning, carefully laid aside his rainbow coloured umbrella and stripped down to a track suit.

He padded off in his bare feet, did six laps and stripped down again to long track-type powder blue shorts with scarlet vest, red, white, and blue skull cap looking like a multi-hued gnome.

### THEATRE? NO

Last seen, as the other athletes moved off to lunch, Pirie was down to his blue shorts and thick white vest.

Tonight Pirie refused to go to the red, white, and gold splendour of the Bolshoi Theatre to see the "Don Quixote" ballet. He went padding off alone around a nearby park, something of a Quixote himself.

Pirie is in his finest waspish mood, which is a good sign. When English coach Geoff Dyson advised him to ease up Pirie snapped back: "I think I know what is best for myself."

Pirie is rejoicing over this test with Kuc.

His thin lips seemed to smile as he told me: "This is just what I wanted. I think I know how to race this man Kuc. I feel that whoever wins will put up a world record."

Kuc and Pirie may both be surprised by the schoolboy-size pace man Ken Norris, who ran Pirie off the track in the A.A.A. six-mile championship.



**GORDON PIRIE** sets out from London Airport for Moscow—wearing a leather-type jacket, corduroy cap. He rests on a combined umbrella - shooting stick.

### THE TREATMENT

Pirie and Diane Leather, whose race with Russia's Nina Otkaenko looks like being one of the big moments of the tour, were the first two to get the full-treatment reception from the Russians.

They told me they were lost under a Chelsea-show profusion of flowers, lined up before scores of cameras and newsreels, and were almost forced to say their pieces into the microphones that followed them right into the bus.

And the Russians kept up this red-carpet welcome. As each plane-load of athletes moved into the airport, rather Euston-station 1910 style, they were loaded with flowers, photographed, and filmed.

So everywhere Pam went crowds turned to stare, and, of course, Gordon Pirie had to go one better.

He held up the traffic—which is normally done only for extremely V.I.P.s.

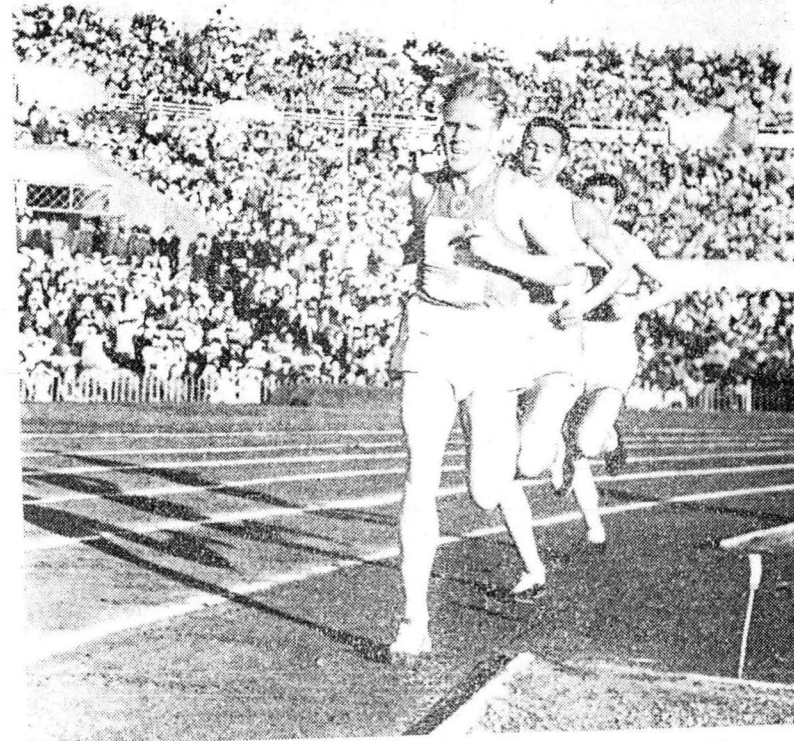
Pirie came loping across Wembley Stadium - sized Gorki - square, under the shadow of the Kremlin, wearing a track suit, a red, white, and blue skull cap, and bearing in his hand a cine-camera and a red, blue, and yellow golf umbrella.

Pirie was just returning from one of those lone training jaunts which he insists on taking by himself.

Pirie will be either a hero or a has-been so far as the Russians are concerned after his 10,000 metres race against Vladimir Kuts.

A win for Pirie and the world record he promised will earn for him the rare distinction of Honoured Master of Sport.

GREAT BRITAIN v UNITED STATES SOVIET RUSSIA  
@ MOSCOW, 1955.



On the way, during an epic 10,000 metres, with Vladimir Kuts still leading from Britain's Gordon Pirie and Ken Norris. Kuts' winning time was 29-8.2

### PIRIE DISAPPOINTS No Fighting Finish

Vladimir Kuts, the star of the meeting, will break Emil Zatopek's world record for 10,000 metres within the next month or so if he continues to run with the wonderful vigour he showed to-day.

The opposition of D. A. G. Pirie was frankly disappointing because for four-fifths of the race Pirie appeared to have settled down at the heels of the little flaxen-haired Russian, waiting the moment for the blitzkrieg. Pirie seemed to be running so well within himself that I had already booked the race as his if he could only produce anything like his normal fighting finish.

Alas, there was no vestige of fight in him. Kuts employed the well-known Zatopek technique of baffling sprints alternated by eases, and a commentary on the race comparing his stage times with those of Zatopek in the famous Czech's record run was both edifying and amusing.

He was up on Zatopek after 2,000 metres: his time was two seconds slower than the Czech's after 3,000 metres. At 4,000 metres he was five seconds up on the Czech, but at halfway he was only a quarter of a second up. At 6,000 metres he had dropped seven seconds behind, which, incidentally, was the end of time comparisons during the race.

Pirie answered every spurt of Kuts and once refused an obvious invitation to take the lead. Kuts was then holding his side as though suffering from stitch. Kuts may have been foxing, judging by the way he ran subsequently. But I believe Pirie lost his chance at this ticklish stage.

Normally Pirie likes to be in the lead and could he have breached a gap then he might have been inspired to run on to victory. He was so obsessed with keeping the tabs on his rival, however, that he was taken quite by surprise when Kuts did decide "to go" with only 4½ laps of the track left to be run.

Ken Norris, the British second string, had a hand in this critical phase of the race. Norris, though appearing to be struggling, passed Pirie and then Kuts. The Russian, to quell this British uprising, suddenly darted ahead and quickly set up a useful lead.

This time there was no response from Pirie, and Kuts, running with more and more power and inspired by the loudly cheering crowd, went on to gain a runaway triumph, winning by more than half a lap.

Very stupidly, to my mind, Pirie, resigned to his fate, dead-beated for second place with Norris. Actually, the judges placed Pirie second.



Dwaj wielcy rywale, którzy spotkali się w Melbourne — Kuc (prowadzi bieg) i Anglik Pirie (drugi). Na razie rekord świata należy do Piriego...



5,000 METRES.

GREAT BRITAIN ✓

CZECHOSLOVAKIA at PRAGUE. 1935.

10,000 METRES.



From ROY MOOR: PRAGUE, Wednesday

**G**ORDON PIRIE tonight beat Emil Zatopek here in the most nerve-testing 5,000 metres race I have ever seen.

Less than a stride separated Pirie from the triple Olympic champion at the finish, and only an inch farther away was Britain's Ken Norris.

"That win was worth all the setbacks and disappointments I have had this season," Pirie told me as he walked excitedly off the track.

### Fiery pace

"After the Olympics at Helsinki three years ago I made up my mind to beat Emil the first time I got the chance. And now I have succeeded."

"I feel absolutely thrilled about it. But what a tight finish! I was glad when I reached the winning post for I realised Emil was on my heels all the way over the last 30 yards and I just couldn't go any faster."

Pirie was timed at 14min. 3.8sec.

with Zatopek and Norris both at 14min. 4sec.

Tension struck the race from the moment it started. Zatopek shot into the lead only to be swiftly passed by both the English boys and to be left 15 yards down at the end of the first lap. After three laps Pirie and Norris were forcing a strong pace with Zatopek 20 yards in the rear.

A lap later Zatopek caught the British pair and went in front, but Pirie was soon rounding the Czech champion and hotting up the pace still more in the hope of "killing off" Zatopek who is now 33.

Zatopek was determined not to be shaken off. With his face as red as his shirt and grimacing as only he can, he held on within six yards of Pirie and Norris as they cleverly interchanged the lead to keep the pace abetting.

With only two laps to go Zatopek was beginning to look a beaten man. He was ten yards behind and steadily losing ground. Then came the bell for the last 400 metres and

a burst by Pirie to get the lead from Norris. As Norris resisted the challenge, hard after the Englishmen went Zatopek, with the 40,000 crowd frantically yelling Z-a-t-o-p-e-k.

But Zatopek could make little impression, so hard and fast were Norris and Pirie driving their spikes into the cinders. The voices of the crowd seemed to double in strength as round the final bend Zatopek broke almost into a sprint and began to catch his rivals.

### Intense excitement

Sensing the danger, Pirie threw every ounce of his ebbing strength into a bid for victory. He rounded Norris as he came into the finishing straight, but still Zatopek gained. With 50 yards to go Zatopek had caught Norris and Pirie was only two yards away.

The excitement was intense, and brought beads of perspiration from the brow of more than one British journalist here, myself included,

as Zatopek slowly but surely moved up on Pirie.

Then Norris found new life and drew level with Zatopek again. Could Pirie hold his lead for another ten yards? To our relief he did. But Zatopek dipped his chest just a shade faster than Norris to earn the second place.

It was a memorable race. Pirie's time, 3.2 secs. faster than Chat-away's victory against the Russians in Moscow on Sunday, was only 12.6 secs. slower than the world record by the Russian Vladimir Kuc.

Pirie waved with delight as he was presented with a bunch of flowers on the victors' rostrum. Pirie, to the amusement of the crowd, later presented Zatopek with a shrub decorating the rostrum. "I'm sorry I could not help you to get a faster time," said Zatopek to Pirie afterwards. "You see, I'm getting old now," he added with a twinkle in his eye.

# 'Old' Emil leaves Pirie panting

**G**RIMACING red-shirted Emil Zatopek took his revenge on Gordon Pirie here tonight. He whipped the British record holder by more than 150 yards in the 10,000 metres race and ran his fastest time of the season in the process—29 minutes 25.6 seconds. Frank Sando, who had tried so hard with Pirie to out-manoeuvre the fighting Czech, was left another 30 yards behind.

But all the brilliance of Zatopek's success could not prevent Britain beating Czechoslovakia in the two-day match by 117 points to 95. Britain also won the women's contest by 58 points to 48.

From  
ROY MOOR  
Prague, Thursday

Pirie was unstinting in his praise for Zatopek's performance. "It was a great run for such a cold night and certainly too fast for me," he said.

"Emil is going to be a very difficult man to beat in the Olympics next year. Not only has he got pace in his legs; he has such an intelligent running sense."

Zatopek has won the last two Olympics 10,000 metres races.

### Fantastic ninth lap

Pirie and Sando tried all they could to outpace the Czech master. As soon as the gun sounded they were away, leading Zatopek by 15 yards inside a furlong and 25 yards in the first lap.

Four laps later Zatopek, 40 yards behind, looked to be struggling to keep going.

Pirie and Sando were still striding

majestically away when Zatopek began to show an interest.

He steadily retrieved yards until at the eighth circuit he was only 20 yards behind.

A fantastic ninth lap saw him take up all the lost ground and then dart into the lead.

But Pirie and Sando were not allowing Zatopek to dictate the pace and did their best to wear down the master by taking the lead in turns.

There was no shaking the emerald-green Emil any more. All three were punched as they passed the 5,000 mark in 14min. 40.6sec. and still together when Zatopek was leading on the 15th lap—though Pirie was beginning to tire.

With eight of the 25 circuits gone Zatopek was in command. His punting pace forced Pirie and then Sando to drop from his heels. And to Prague's famous cry Z-a-t-o-p-e-k. Z-a-t-o-p-e-k. the



Mecz lekkoatletyczny Anglia — CSR. W biegu na 10 km prowadzą Angliecy Pirie i Sando przed późniejszym zwycięstwem Zatopkiem.

# Now Pirie Trains With Zatopek

From H. J. OATEN  
PRAGUE, Friday.

**B**RITISH runner Gordon Pirie just can't get enough running against Emil Zatopek. Having just run two races against the Czech star, Gordon was out training with him here to-day.

Both call it working off the stiffness of the 10,000 metres—in which, incidentally, Zatopek showed that at 33 he is still the world's No. 1 man over the distance.

Kuts might beat him, but I wouldn't wager anything on the result. No one else, not even Pirie is in Zatopek's class yet as I expect the Czech to prove again in the Evening News meeting at the White City on October 12.

Emil called for Gordon this morning and they had quite an escort of British and Czech supporters as they went off to a local park for a work-out which Pirie described as "the most important of my life."

This may be a slight exaggeration, but you might say that Pirie regards Zatopek as the personification of what he wants to become on the track.

The pair have been pen-friends for years but this is the longest time they have been able to spend together.

In the Helsinki Olympics they were in different camps, but here Zatopek's flat in the centre of Prague is only a stone's throw from Pirie's hotel.

### Perfect Foil

Each is a perfect foil for the other. Pirie's rather blunt sense of humour is matched by Zatopek's puckish attitude to everything that goes on.

Indeed, except in the heat of a race they might have succeeded as a couple of soft talk comedians.

Even in a race Zatopek is not above having his fun. In the 5,000 metres which Pirie won it was Emil who suggested halfway through the race that they might go a bit slower.

Gordon got his own back in last night's 10,000 metres by suggesting that they should puzzle the crowd by starting on the extreme edge of the track and Zatopek added to the fun by staging a false start.

A colour-film has been taken of to-day's training run, which Pirie hopes will provide him with some useful tips. None of the other athletes felt like training to-day, which was not to be wondered at.



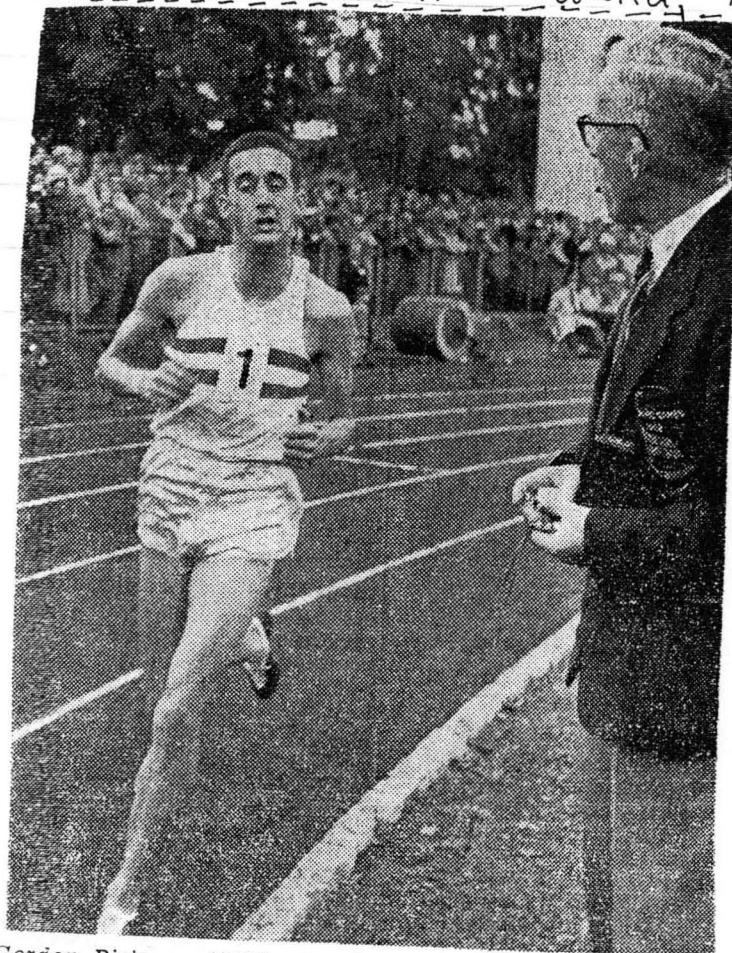
Gordon Pirie and Emil Zatopek together in Prague.



Gordon Pirie wins too . . . beats the man behind him, the Czech wonder-runner Zatopek. . . .



# 10,000 METRES RACE at TURKU, FINLAND, 1955.



Gordon Pirie on jättänyt Taipaleen ja on lähtenyt viimeiselle kierrokselleen. Vieressä hänen huoltajansa, D. McSwein huutamassa väliaikaa.

## IT'S PIRIE BY YARDS

TURKU, Finland, Sunday.—Gordon Pirie, Britain's top distance runner, won the 10,000-metre (6m. 376yds.) race at the international athletics meeting today in 29min. 32sec.

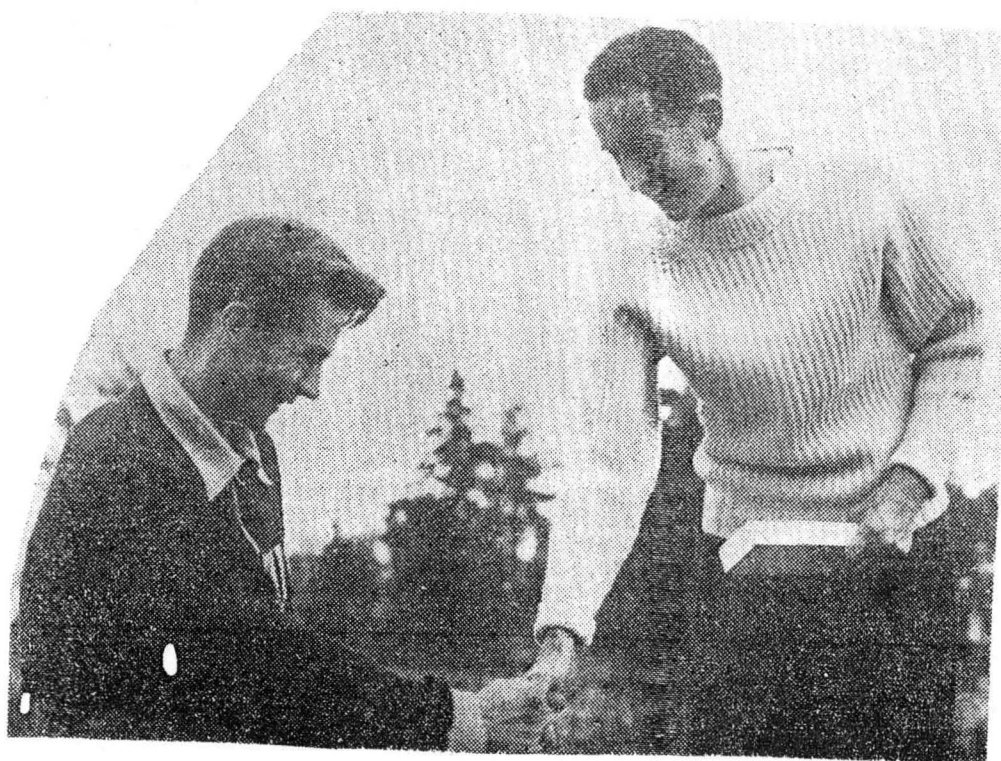
Ilmari Taipale, Finland's 5,000-metre champion, was second, 25 yards behind.

Pirie, taking the lead after half a mile, maintained a strong even pace to record a comfortable win in the fastest time set in Finland this year for the event.

His time at the halfway stage was 14min. 42sec. It was here that Taipale began to feel the pace and dropped back.

He rallied again near the finish but his effort came too late.

10,000 m: 1) Gordon Pirie, Englanti, 29.32.0, 2) I. Taipale, RU-38, 29.38.4, 3) K. Hyppönen, TuUL, 30.58.0, 4) A. Numminen, LoLe, 32.39.0.



Ilmari Taipale onnittelee voittajaan Gordon Pirietä palkintokorokkeella.

# 5,000 METRES.



## Cap and Umbrella

Wearing a suede jacket, a corduroy cap, and carrying a gaily-striped umbrella, Gordon Pirie leaves London Airport for Turku, Finland, where he is to run 5,000 metres to-morrow. Afterwards he joins the British team in Copenhagen

# ENGLAND DANISH GAMES.

## DEN BRITISKE COPENHAGEN, OCT. 2

A new moon as bright and close as a bedside lamp hung over the city last night. The four tall pylons, bearing a battery of 60 floodlights, that lit up the Osterbo Stadium seemed almost superfluous. But all this merely helped to bring into sharper relief the contribution of British athletes who are playing their part in the British festival of industry and sport in a foreign but friendly land.

D. A. G. Pirie puffed his way to the front from the start of the 5,000 metres, pulling T. Thøgersen along, some 90 metres behind, to the Dane's best time over such a run. Pirie sensibly ran well within himself in view of the lack of opposition and came home in the respectable, but not outstanding, time of 14min. 23.6sec.

After this the crowd, happy at their entertainment, swelled into the night, and there to be seen and heard were the street vendors with their cries. The bunches of bananas looked especially tempting.



5000 m Løb: 1. Gordon Pirie, Storbr., 14.23.6. 2. Thyge Thøgersen, Gullfoss, 14.32.4. 3. Poul Jensen, AIK, Vejgaard, 14.49.0. 4. George Rhodes, Storbr., 14.49.2.

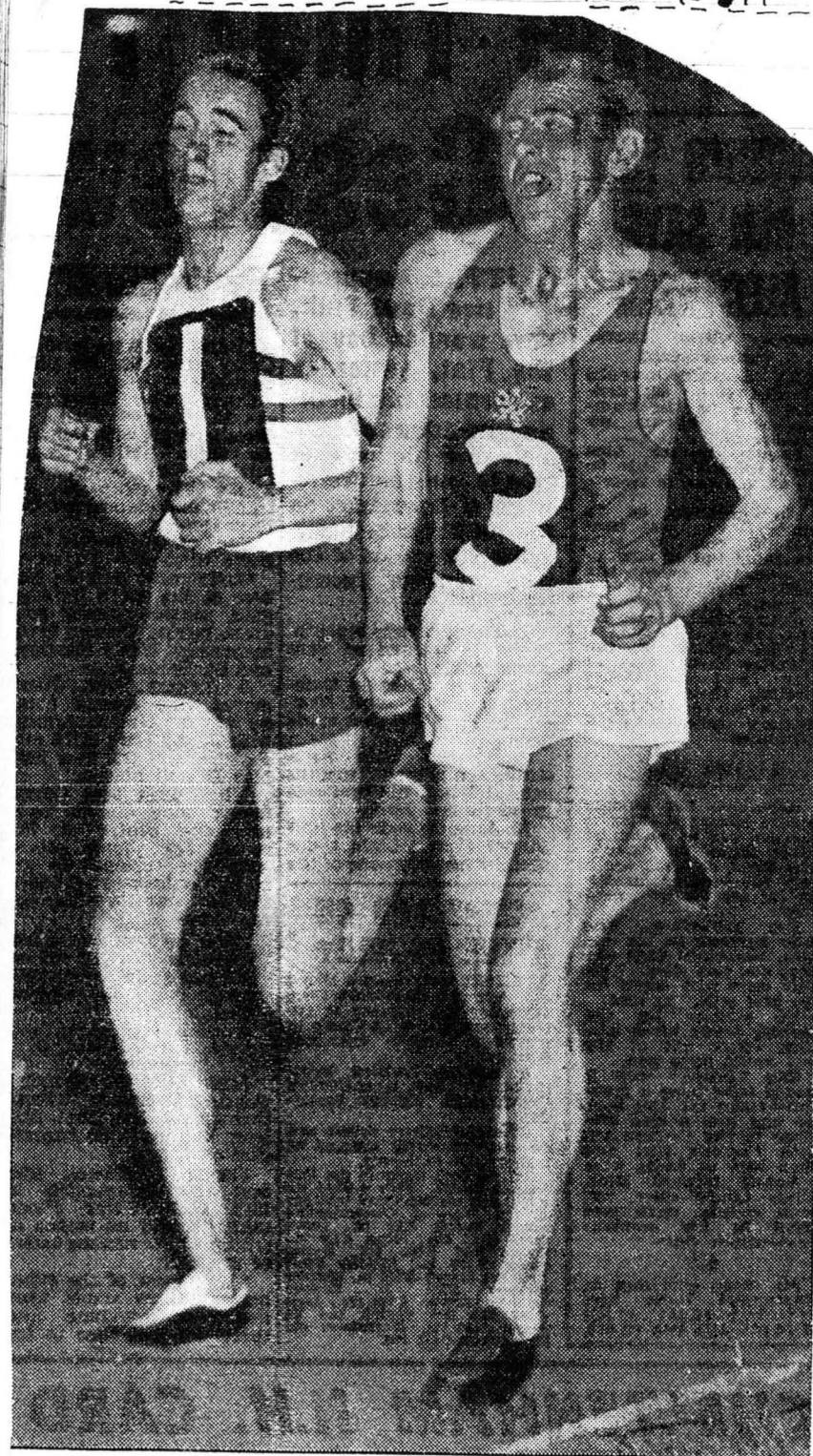
dansk-britiske stævne paa Østerbro Stadion. Paa billedet ses han sammen med den anden engelske løber Pirie, der allerede har opholdt sig flere dage i byen — og som brillerede med at løbe vildt i Dyrehaven forleden under træningen.



10,000 METRES

LONDON

V PRAGUE.



Pirie pounds past Zatopek on the last lap, looks at him in triumph. At this moment the race is over.

## BUSINESS-AS-USUAL PIRIE

"Evening News" Reporter Gordon Pirie had no special celebration to-day after his great victory over Emil Zatopek at the White City last night.

In "just another day" he was up at his usual time at his Coulsdon home and went out to his business as a paint salesman.

"Gordon feels fine," his mother said. "I expect he will do some training this evening." Zatopek, too, was unaffected by his defeat, and was full of praise for the running of Pirie and Ken Norris, who finished second.

Thirty-four-year-old Zatopek said at his London hotel to-day that he will retire after next year's Olympic Games.

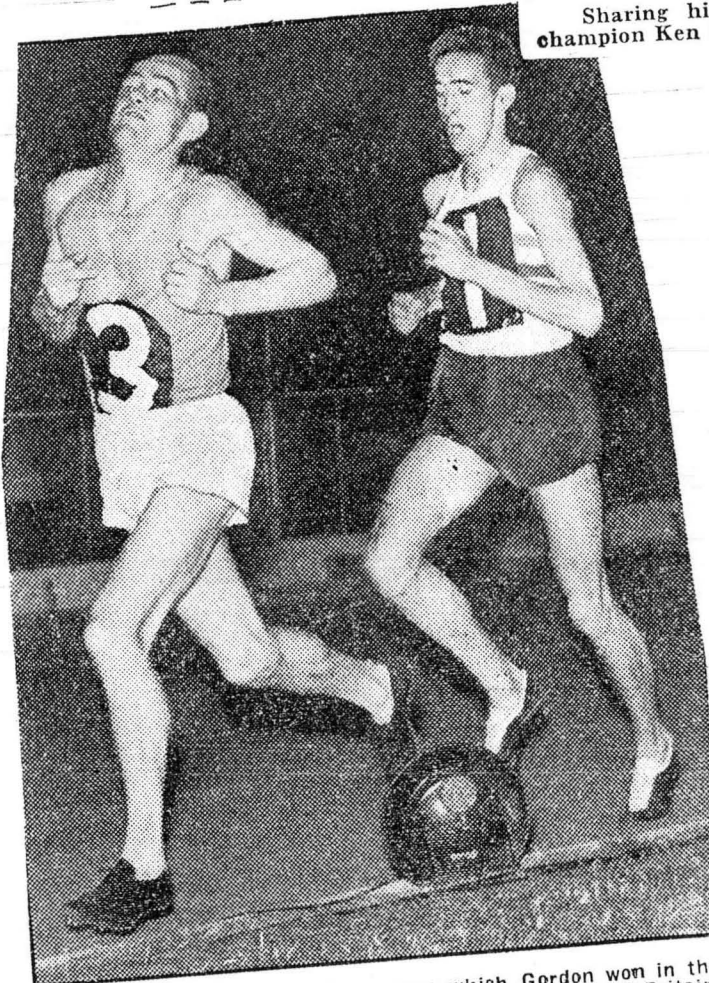
"I will not run for my country after that," he said.



... Victory! Gordon Pirie breaks the tape.

WHITE CITY, LONDON.

1955.



Gordon Pirie at the heels of Emil Zatopek as they fought out the thrilling 10,000 metres race which Gordon won in the fastest time ever run in Britain.



The end of a great race. Three smiles as the runners get together after their breath has come back. But Gordon Pirie (right) seems anxious that Emil Zatopek, Czech champion, should put on a sweater. Ken Norris offers a little consolation.

Pirie touched the peak of his career with 29min. 19sec. for a race that gave him a time 24.8sec. outside Zatopek's world record set up in Brussels last year.

Sharing his triumph was A.A.A. six-mile champion Ken Norris, who relegated Zatopek to third place.

Norris, with 29min. 21.4sec., also forced out of himself a fastest-ever time in Britain. Zatopek trailed behind them in 29min. 28.6sec., some 50 yards behind galloping Gordon.

When it was over all three embraced and shook hands as only sportsmen do.

Pirie finished fresh enough to lope round the track to the cheers of 36,000 at this London-Prague match sponsored by the "Evening News."

In this 24-lap ordeal of endurance it was three miles before it became a race.

## Rolling eyes

Until then, Zatopek, of the rolling head and rolling eyes, had pounded along with Pirie and Norris at his heels. Then:

A MILE in 4min. 44sec. ... TWO MILES in 9min. 29sec. ... and at THREE MILES Pirie and Norris spurred ahead of the little man.

As if affronted, Zatopek thrust himself into the lead again after they had passed the 5,000-metre mark in 14min. 44.6sec.

For laps Pirie and Zatopek made a fight of it, passing, repassing, running abreast with

Zatopek doggedly refusing to give an inch.

At 4½ MILES came Ken Norris with a sensation-causing effort to take the lead from both. He held it for most of a lap.

At FIVE MILES there was the chant "Zat-o-pek, Zat-o-pek" from frenzied Czechs. Zatopek pounded on only to face another Norris challenge.

## Last lap

With half a mile to go the Czech, arms thrashing, forced himself past Norris again—only to face the real challenge that came with the bell for the last lap.

Pirie, quickly followed by Norris, shot past him on the back stretch to open a gap of ten yards that widened to 20 to the frenzied cheering of the crowd.

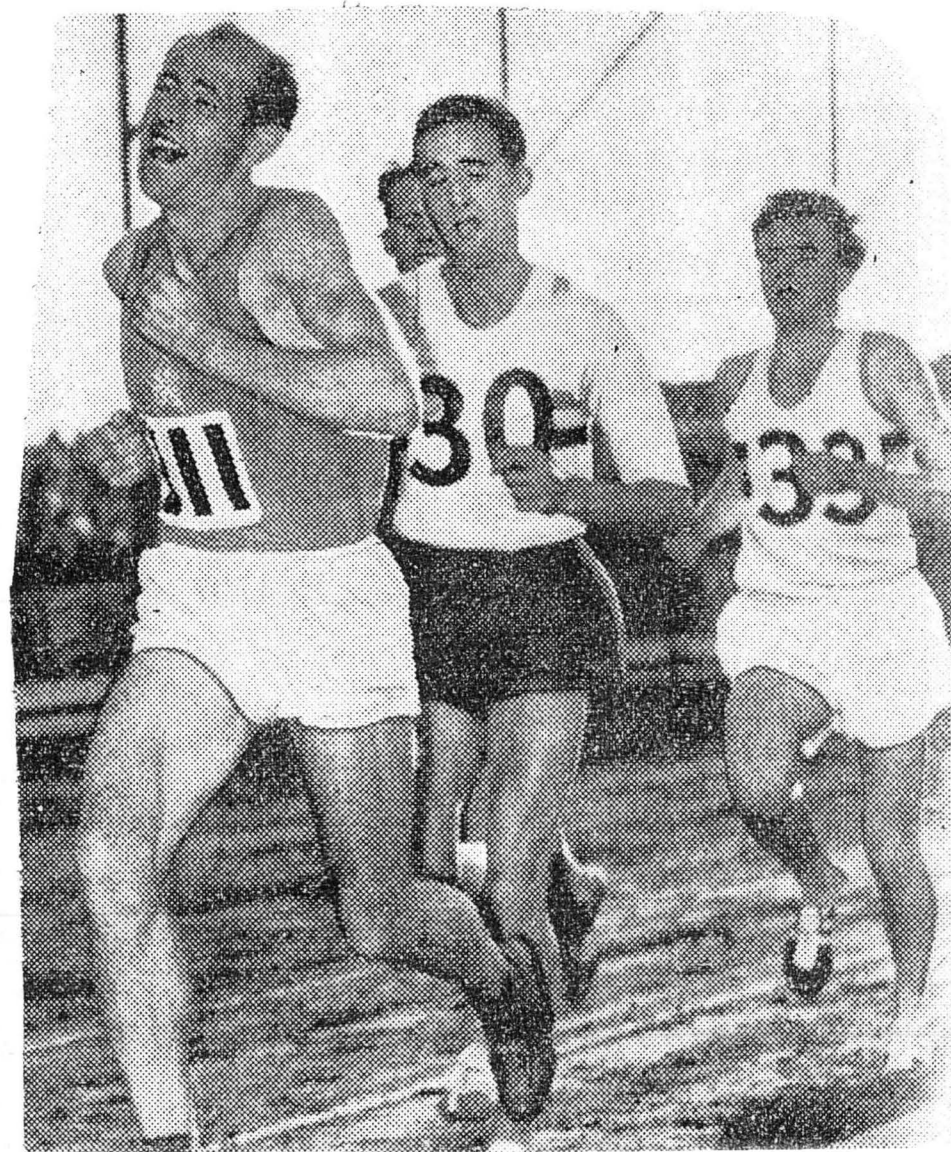
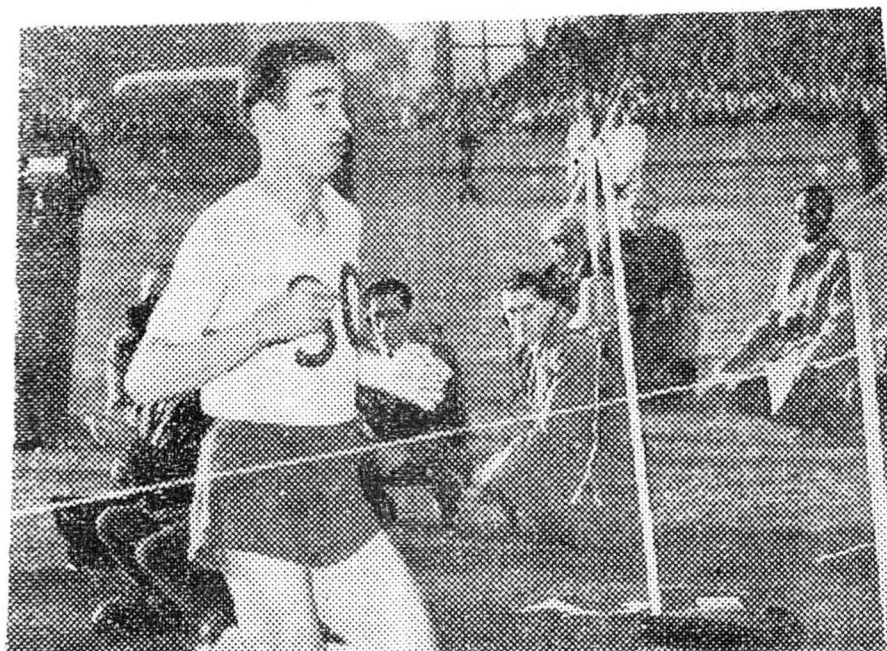
## ZATONEK WAS DONE!

Nobody could believe it, and Pirie glanced almost nonchalantly over his shoulder as he breasted the tape 12 yards ahead of Norris.





"May the best man win." Gordon Pirie (left) and Emil Zatopek give a toast in orangeade at their Manchester hotel





# Two Hours Record Attempt, at Walton on Thames. 1955



Gordon Pirie congratulates Joe Lancaster, of Manchester A.C., after the two-hour track race at Walton-on-Thames to-day.

## Joe Lancaster beats Pirie and Record

**J**OE LANCASTER, a 29-year-old railway clerk from Hollingworth, near Manchester, beat Gordon Pirie and Stan Cox—and the unofficial world record—in a two-hour track race at Walton (Surrey) to-day.

Lancaster, who has never before won an important race, set up a new world best performance for two hours, covering a distance of 22 miles 418 yards.

On the way, he put up an English native record for 20 miles with 1hr 47min 53sec.

Pirie, who for much of the distance had looked a prospective winner, could not match Lancaster's strength and speed towards the end and finished second about 80 yards behind.

Jack Heywood (Herne Hill H.), who had shared the lead with Pirie and Stan Cox (Southgate H.) for 16 miles, was third, and Cox the marathon international fourth.

All four easily beat the previous world best performance of 21 miles 698 yards by Jose Ribas, in Argentina in 1935.

### Took Lead

Lancaster did his damage during the 19th mile after taking the lead from Pirie at the end of the 18th.

He ran four successive laps in around 78 seconds each, the fastest of the race, to cover a mile in 5min. 15.2sec. at this stage.

At 20 miles Lancaster was 100 yards in front in 1hr. 47min. 53 sec.—4min. 1sec. inside the old English native record set up in 1894.

Conditions were far from favourable with a very wet track and a blustery wind.

Lancaster, the father of two children, has designs on the marathon. He has yet to run his first one, although virtually he runs one every day—13 miles to work and 13 miles home again.

In training he covers 5,000 miles a year, as great a distance as Jim Peters when he was at the peak of his career.

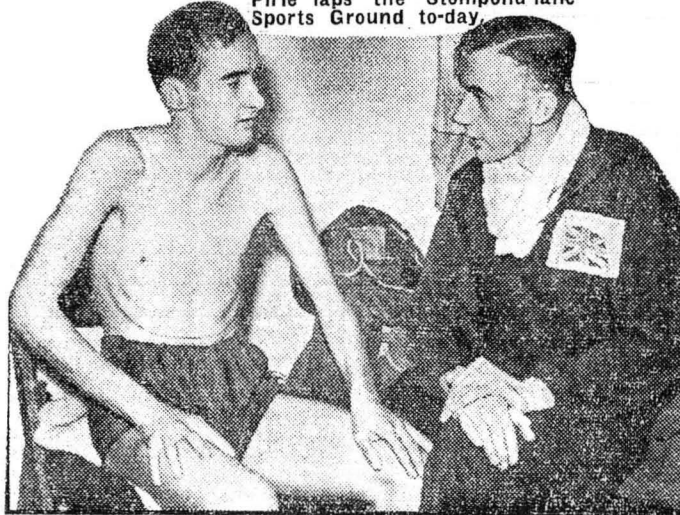
Pirie, having his first taste of a race anything over ten miles, did not enjoy the experience.



GORDON PIRIE Failed to catch Lancaster.



Marathon runner Jim Peters holds the stop-watch as Gordon Pirie laps the Stompond-lane Sports Ground to-day.



Gordon Pirie strips off after his two-hour run on the Walton-on-Thames track and discusses the race with

Stan Cox. Pirie has a lean and hungry look... but note the depth of chest compared with his gaunt frame.

## PIRIE SAYS DISTANCE RUNNING IS STUPID

By SYDNEY HULLS

**G**ORDON PIRIE sat down, pawed his spiky hair and declared: "Long-distance running is stupid—and the man who wins is the one who doesn't realise how stupid it is."

Pirie had just run 22 miles 278 yards in his first two-hour race—at rainswept Walton-on-Thames, finishing 140 yards behind smooth-striding Joe Lancaster.

Twenty-eight-year-old railway clerk Joe from Hollingworth, Manchester—virtually unknown in big-time athletics—had torn off a new world-best performance by completing 22 miles 418 yards in two hours.

### English title

With it he claimed an English title by running 20 miles in 1hr. 47min. 53sec.

Jose Ribas (Argentina) held the previous best for the two-hour race with 21 miles 698 yards set up 20 years ago.

The English record goes back further. It was made by George Crossland who ran 20 miles in 1hr. 51min. 54sec. at Stamford Bridge in 1913.

Besides Lancaster, Pirie, Jack

# SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS SMILES CROSS COUNTRY PIRIE WINS GIBB CUP CHAMPIONSHIP. 1955.

## PIRIE WINS GIBB CUP

**G**ORDON PIRIE had little difficulty in winning the South London Harriers' five-miles cross-country club championship on Saturday, and so keep the "Gibb" cup in the Pirie family for the seventh consecutive year.

His time was 25min. 23sec. 42sec. better than the second man, 18-years-old S. Langridge, racing in his first junior season.

He surprised Peter Pirie by half-a-minute—for Peter, Harriers' captain, was third. Mr. Alick Pirie, father of Gordon and Peter, took 42nd place, in 36min. 43sec., out of the 45 competitors, and yet another member of the Pirie family, Ian, who has just arrived back after a long spell abroad, completed the course in 40min. 38sec. R. Clutterbuck won the handicap award.

**G**ORDON PIRIE and Clay Gibbs, the Trinidad sprinter, had a short, sharp row during training at Croydon Sports Arena last night.

At one point Gibbs called Pirie "Bighead." Pirie returned the compliment.

Then Gibbs pulled off a track-suit he had borrowed from Pirie and threw it back to him.

The whole breeze blew up because of a misunderstanding.

As soon as this became obvious, Pirie apologised to Gibbs. Gibbs apologised to Pirie—and they parted good friends.

"I put my foot in it. I

By **GEORGE HARLEY**

am afraid," Pirie told me last night.

"It was one of those silly arguments that develop if you start criticising a man for something he knows nothing about."

Gibbs has been chosen for the British team to compete in the Southern Games in Trinidad next February.

### Council Said 'Yes'

He applied successfully to Croydon Corporation last week for permission to use the Sports Arena track every night of the week.

This privilege is denied to other athletes because of amateurs, a local Soccer team have exclusive training on Tuesdays.

Ath

use the arena on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This distribution of training facilities was decided after a squabble between the footballers and the athletes over the use of the arena.

Pirie said: "When I saw Gibbs tonight I told him he should not have applied for special privileges."

"I could have done so long ago but I felt it would be unfair to the other athletes who use the track and would tend to cause jealousy."

"I felt Gibbs had no right to seek special consideration. We had a few words about it."

"Then I discovered that Gibbs knew nothing about the dispute with the footballers which had led to the athletes getting the track for only three days a week."

"I apologised. So did he. Still, whenever you see Gibbs and me together, you can bet we are arguing. That's why we are such good friends!"

As for that track suit top Gibbs borrowed it from Pirie months ago. "But I've got it back now!" said Pirie



GORDON PIRIE

## ★ YESTERDAY'S SPORTS

ATHLETICS			
MALMOE (Sweden)	1 mile	1. H.	1
Elliott (Australia)	3m. 58s.	2. D.	1
Wern (Sweden)	4m. 24s.	3. M.	1
Halberg (N. Zealand)	4m. 35s.	4. D.	1
G. Pirie (G.B.)	4m. 48s.	5. M.	1
Ibbotson (G.B.)	4m. 55s.	6. D.	1
COLOGNE—4 x 100 metres			
1 West Germany			
World record			



## AT PRESENT IT'S QUICKER TO RUN, SAYS GORDON PIRIE

**F**AMOUS runner Gordon Pirie leads to-day's letters on our Riverside Highway plan with a vigorous plea for drastic action to solve London's traffic jams. It is often quicker to run, he says:





His athlete fiancée, Shirley Hampton, 20, of Orpington—they became engaged last month—adjusted the buttonhole of Britain's leading long distance runner, Gordon Pirie, 24, when they arrived at Grosvenor House, Park-lane, for the Furniture Trades Benevolent Fund ball. Marriage date is not fixed.

#### SPORTSMEN OUT OF UNIFORM: 10



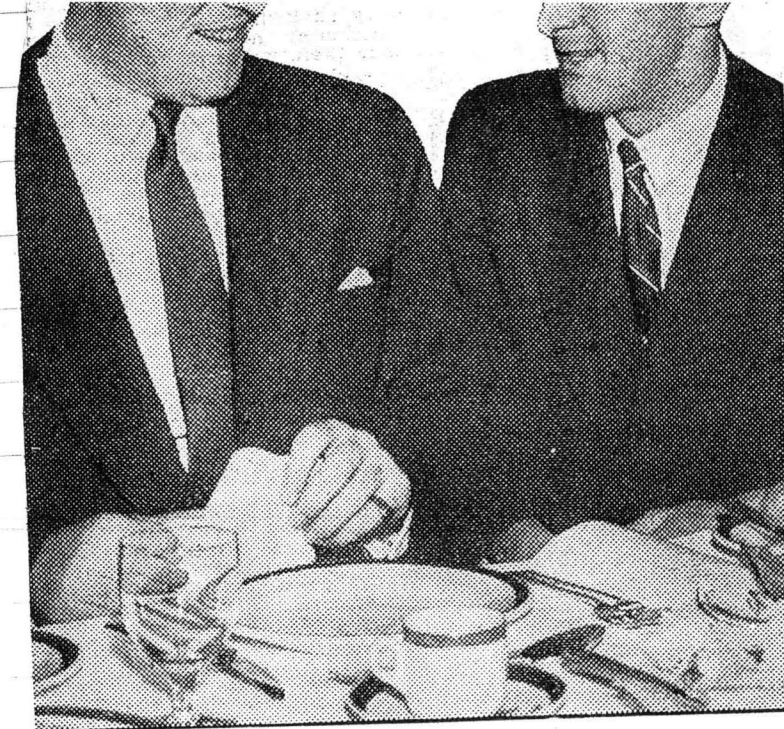
**LOOK** at that diamond ring. Because of that ring a secret was broken. It is worn by 20-year-old athlete, Shirley Hampton. It was given to her by runner Gordon Pirie. Yesterday they announced their engagement.

But the secret of the engagement came out a few hours before the official announcement. The reason: They could not find the ring she wanted.

Originally they planned to make the announcement **AFTER** buying the ring so that Shirley could be photographed wearing it.

They tried to get the one they wanted on Monday. They were still trying at lunch-time yesterday. By then the secret was a secret no longer.

But last night it was on Shirley's finger, the official announcement had been made, and she was photographed wearing it at her



Eamonn Andrews (left) has a lunchtime talk with Gordon Pirie, who says an injured Achilles tendon may seriously interfere with his athletics activities

## PIRIE TO RUN IN BRAZIL

By DOUG WILSON

**GORDON PIRIE** and Ken Norris are likely, I understand, to compete in Brazil's famous "round-the-houses" race at Sao Paulo on New Year's Eve.

With all traffic stopped, and thousands lining the course of just over four miles through the main streets, the race is one of the highlights of Brazil's New Year celebrations.

Several "loose ends" have to be tied up. One stumbling block is the British Amateur Athletic Board's ruling that no British athlete may compete abroad unless accompanied by a "team manager."

Apparently the Brazilians do not relish paying expenses for three when they are getting only two athletes.

### Let them go

In recent years both Roger Bannister and Chris Chataway have been given special dispensation to run outside Britain without a manager. Let us hope Pirie and Norris are similarly treated.

The race carries tremendous prestige in South America. Emil Zatonek won it two years ago.

## GORDON PIRIE OUT OF BRAZIL RACE

**GORDON PIRIE** has withdrawn from the San Sylvester "round the houses" road race in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on December 31 because of a recurrence of his recent leg injury.

The British Amateur Athletic Board, announcing this to-day, says that Pirie has been informed that he must cease training for at least one month.

By PHILIP

**GORDON PIRIE**, Britain's race again. He said: "An Achilles tendon injury that I may be forced to

**BETTER** news of Gordon Pirie, who seems a good deal more optimistic about his athletics future than he was a week ago.

Pirie is having deep massage for the sprained Achilles tendon of his left foot, and has told members of the Erith and District Athletic Club, of which he is president, that he is already feeling the benefit of the new treatment.

Presiding over their yearly meeting, Pirie told the Erith members he would join them in a training session when fit again. "You can come with me on a training run if you like," Gordon added, "but most of you will have gone home by the time I have finished."

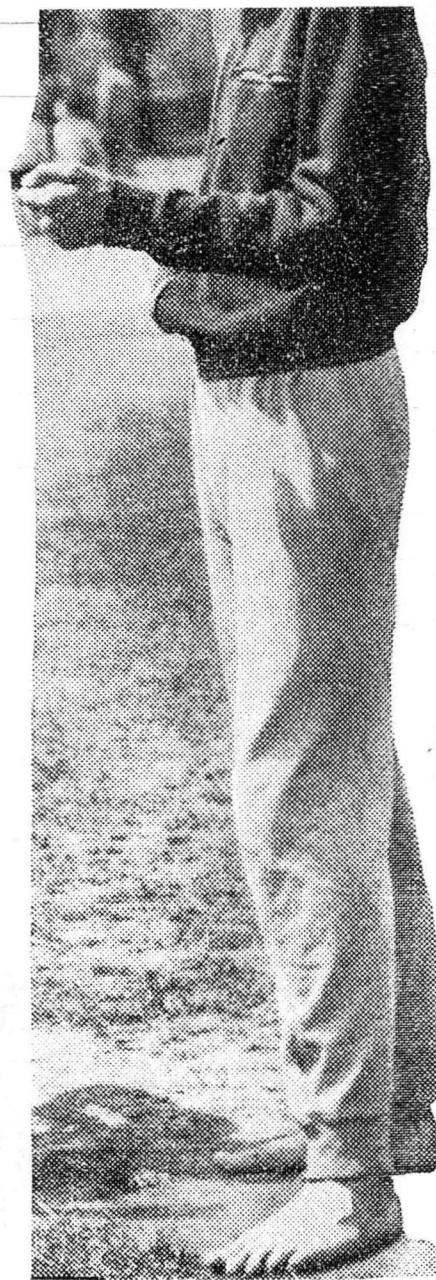
That sounds more like the old confident and determined Pirie. But his complete rest from running must continue for some weeks yet.

## PIRIE TO MISS BRUSSELS RACE

Gordon Pirie, who has been suffering from Achilles tendon trouble and has not trained for several days, has withdrawn from the English team in the international cross-country race at Brussels on Sunday.

Pirie's mother said to-day that the trouble was improving. "Gordon does not want to take the risk of aggravating it by competing in Belgium," she added.





GORDON PIRIE . . . discus throwing and shot putting are in his training schedule for peak fitness.



By HARRY CARPENTER  
GORDON PIRIE, the 24-year-old runner who beat the fabulous Zatopek three times this year, bitterly attacked the Press last night. Fleet Street, he said, had done "immeasurable damage" to British sport.

Scores of famous sports personalities had gathered in London to honour him.

TV cameras relayed the scene into homes all over the country. As the crop-haired Pirie, from Coulsdon, received a B.B.C. trophy for being voted leading sporting personality by viewers.

Then Mr. Iain Macleod, former Minister of Health and now Minister of Labour, presented him with a "Sportsman of the Year" trophy, won in a ballot organised by *Sporting Record*.

### Left out

In his reply Pirie said that in a recent poll of Sports writers neither boxer Don Cockell nor himself had been voted into the first seven sportsmen who had done most to further British prestige during 1955.

Early this month the Sports-writers' Association voted John Disley, the Welsh steeplechaser, as Sportsman of the Year.

Pirie went on: "There are other opinions besides those of the Press, as is shown in the historic buildings down the road"—an oblique reference to the Houses of Parliament.

Later I asked him to explain

his statement that British sports-writers had harmed sport.

He said: "You sports writers criticise all the time. You do your best to cast a slur on sport."

"Don't you realise that we are doing our damndest to win every time we run? Boxers and footballers too. They are always being knocked."

"You ought to wish us all the best and encourage us. Instead, I'm always being criticised."

"What about that race at the White City last year? I broke a bone in my foot and had to drop out. Some of the Press writers



PIRIE.

Last night.

said I was yellow. *Daily Mail* colleague Doug Wilson, former A.A.A. mile champion, said: "Pirie's opinion is certainly not generally held among athletes. Perhaps, more than any other, he owes much to Fleet-street."

GORDON PIRIE and Pat Smythe with Iain Macleod, M.P., Minister of Sport, presented them with their "Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year" last week. See pages 6 and 7 for "Climax to a Wonderful Year."



**DOUGLAS ALASTAIR GORDON PIRIE**—better known to you as "Puff-Puff" Pirie—is Britain's Sportsman of the Year for 1955 in "Sporting Record's" great national ballot.

Sportswoman of the Year—for the third time running—is show jumper Pat Smythe, the only woman in the top 12 in the ballot, which resulted as follows:—

	Percentage
GORDON PIRIE .....	13.9
Chris Chataway .....	8.5
John Disley .....	5.9
Billy Wright .....	4.4
Brian Hewson .....	3.8
Stirling Moss .....	3.7
Donald Campbell .....	3.6
Stanley Matthews .....	3.4
Peter May .....	3.3
John Surtees .....	2.8
Pat Smythe .....	2.4
	2.3



# ENGLISH (Cross-Country) CHAMPIONSHIP AT WARWICK 1956

## Norris pips Norris

by JAMES FITZGERALD

GORDON PIRIE failed to run himself into the England team for the cross-country international at Belfast on March 17 when, running in the 1956 English nine-mile senior championship at Warwick yesterday, he could do no better than gain 15th position.

Ken Norris, the winner of the classic New Year Round-the-Houses race in Brazil, is the new English senior champion, but only after a thrilling duel with his namesake, Fred Norris, of Bolton.

Before the half-distance Ken and Fred Norris, running shoulder to shoulder, had broken clear of the field of more than 500 runners. Then, in a fighting finish, Ken Norris came away with a fast burst to cover the distance in 48min. 11sec., against the 48min. 17sec. clocked by the Lancashire Norris.

South London Harriers—for whom Pirie turned out—lost their team title, finishing third with 170 points, against the winning score of 172 points returned by Sheffield United Harriers.

The Senior field just after the start in the National Cross Country Championships at Warwick.



X



## Help from Gordon

Gordon Pirie helps his fiancée, Shirley Hampton, with her

sprint starts at Ladywell Park, Lewisham. They are both contenders for places in the Olympic Games.

S.L.H. v LONDON A.C. at IMBER COURT 1956

## Gordon Pirie Double

Gordon Pirie (South London H.) ran a good three miles in 14min 24sec, and he also won the half-mile in 1min 59.6sec in an inter-club athletics match which was won by London A.C. at Imber Court yesterday.

H.A.A. v OXFORD UNIVERSITY  
AT OXFORD 1956

Gordon Pirie is worried. After that 4min. 13.2sec. mile at Oxford on Thursday he is dissatisfied. This is a bad sign—for his rivals. He is stepping up his training and aims to be in top form by the AAA championships in July, by which time he is likely to improve even on his best efforts in the past.

Pirie should have been encouraged by the fact that his tendon trouble has completely cleared, but the effect of Thursday's race was to make him give extra thought to his training schedule.

"It is problematical," he says, "whether it is better to do fast work or a lot of jogging. If you are going to run at 15 miles an hour, it is not much good training at 20 miles an hour or you lose your rhythm in a race."

A poached egg on toast was getting cold at Pirie's breakfast. Mother said: "Put your 'bible' away," but this intent young man persisted in a close study of a volume that records his daily work in the cause of world class athletics.



Track-suited Ian Hackett, three-years-old son of their host at Withdean Stadium, Brighton, insisted on joining in when Gordon Pirie and his fiancée Shirley Hampton set out for training. Both Gordon and Shirley are hoping for an Olympic selection and they plan to marry after the Games which the Duke of Edinburgh will open at Melbourne in November.

## MORE TROUBLE

Gordon Pirie's troubles increase. First it was the Achilles tendon on his left leg; then similar trouble on the right. Now he has splitting headaches, the result of a recent car accident. The car in which Pirie and his fiancée, athlete Shirley Hampton, were travelling turned completely over outside Brighton. "I thought we were lucky to escape with no more than severe bruises," said Pirie. "Then, suddenly, I began to have these headaches. Shirley is getting them, too. It may be delayed concussion."

## Pirie wins fight to get fit

By ROY MOOR

GORDON PIRIE is winning the fight to get fit again. Proof that the second tendon injury is mending well came in an hour's non-stop running test at Brighton on Saturday.

He ran lap after lap with all his familiar grinding determination. And at the end he told me: "I am cured of my first injury. The trouble near the other Achilles tendon also seems all right. I am hoping to be racing over a mile again for the A.A.A. against Oxford University at Oxford next month."

## PIRIE-A GREAT RUN TO FORM

By Stan Tomlin

GORDON PIRIE, I'm sure, is really back to form at last. For the first time for nearly three years I saw him run like the champion he was. He won the Surrey three miles title at Motspur Park in 13 min. 42.2 sec.

He confirmed my view by saying: "I am really running well again, better than ever before."

If Gordon had been able to maintain the speed of his first mile—4 min. 27.6 sec.—there would have been a new British record. That's what Gordon had intended and so well was he running that I am sure, but for the stiff wind he would have done it.

The time beats his own county record made in 1953 by 12 sec. and this excellent solo run—for that's what it virtually was—following on his fast mile last Wednesday, is a really good indication that Gordon is looking for some of that Olympic gold.

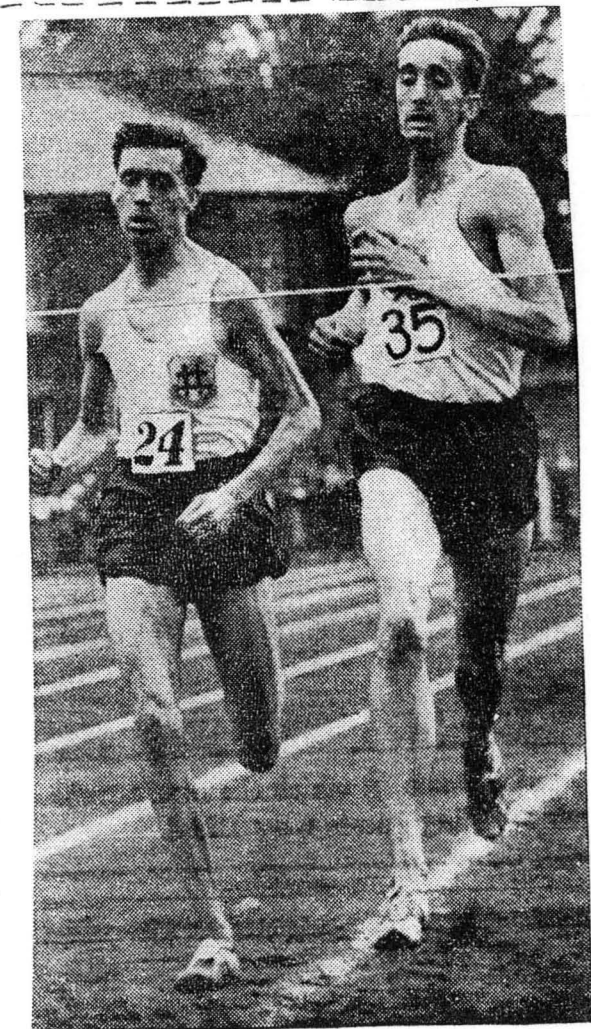
"Now for some real speed training," he said. It looks as though we may expect something really brilliant in the AAA championships next month.

IN the Surrey three-mile race Martin Crickmore, 21-year-old Coulsdon civil servant, tries desperately to match Gordon Pirie's finishing sprint to the tape, fails by inches.

Crickmore was a lap behind. Why the hurry? He explains: "Gordon bet me I would be lapped after two miles. I bet him he wouldn't lap me at all. And he only just did it."

## SMOOTHER STILL

PIRIE won in 13min. 42.2sec., an improvement of 12sec. on the championship best he set up in 1953, said: "I'm running more smoothly than ever before. Am I pleased with my performance? No. When you're pleased with your racing you might as well give up altogether." Ambition allows Pirie no pleasure.



## THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS IN IT

It's all right Gordon Pirie. That runner on your right—M. E. Crickmore—should never have been in the picture at the finish. You've lapped him as you did most of the others when winning the Surrey three miles championship at Motspur



## 1,500 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE.

A tricky wind was blowing and it was too early for record breaking.

It was also the fastest 1,500 metres the determined Yorkshireman has ever done—equivalent to just inside a 4min. 0.2secs. mile.

What is even more remarkable about Wood's astonishing effort—and even more astonishing last lap—is the fact that he is an entirely self-trained and self-taught athlete.

He has no coaches and takes no correspondence courses. He does all his training in the evenings. Yet this "lone wolf" shattered two State-sponsored master-runners who, under the stern eye of their coach, have become two of the most heart-breaking running machines.

Afterwards the Hungarians—Rozsavolgyi was second in 3min. 43.8sec. and Tabori third in 3min. 44sec.—said "we were completely surprised at Wood's speed over the last 300 yards." They certainly were.

Indeed, the two Magyar aces were so busy watching Gordon Pirie that they forgot all about Wood.

## Came alive

The race, which had followed a dull pattern from the gun, suddenly came alive when galloping Gordon, fed up with the snail's pace blazed into the lead halfway round the third lap.

Immediately the red-vested Hungarians reacted—particularly Tabori. Chataway's conqueror last year.

At the bell it was the same order but as they tore into the back straight Tabori flashed past Pirie. And it was at this point that loping Laszlo got the shock of his life.

Ken Wood, who had been following his familiar tactics of lying well back, shot from seventh place to the front in one scalding surge round the outside.

Two hundred and fifty yards—200 yards—150 yards—and Wood, the wonder boy from Yorkshire, was still in the lead.

Round the last bend Tabori made his final effort. So did Rozsavolgyi.

Tabori reached Wood's shoulder but somehow the Englishman accelerated again, and Tabori, done, fell back.

The slimmer Rozsavolgyi pounded after Wood but the Yorkshireman breasted the tape one and a half yards ahead.

Gordon Pirie who finished fourth with a personal 1,500 metres time of 3min. 46.2secs. said "Wood certainly went. I tried to help Ken."

THE last lap . . . and Britain's Gordon Pirie leads. To his right is I. Rozsavolgyi, of Hungary (No. 11), behind is L. Tabori, also of Hungary (No. 14) and K. Richtzenhan (No. 9), of East Germany.

But it didn't stay that way. For the race was won by Britain's K. Wood (arrowed). This was the 1,500 Metres International (Invitation Event) in the British Games at the White City.



## 3,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE.

GORDON ("Everything happens to me") Pirie raced one and a half laps wearing only one shoe in the 3,000-metre international event at the White City yesterday.

Pirie lost his left shoe soon after the start . . . but he tried to stay in the race. It was impossible.

He came off, his feet raw and bleeding, with the boos of a section of the 45,000 crowd buzzing in his ears like the unpleasant hum of an infuriated swarm of bees.

It left world record holder, Sandor Iharos, of Hungary, undisputed master of the field to cruise round on his own, and even then, great athletes that he is, to return a best United Kingdom time for this performance.

Iharos won in 8min. 2.6sec., 3.6sec. better than the previous best time set up by Chris Chataway at this same White City two years ago.

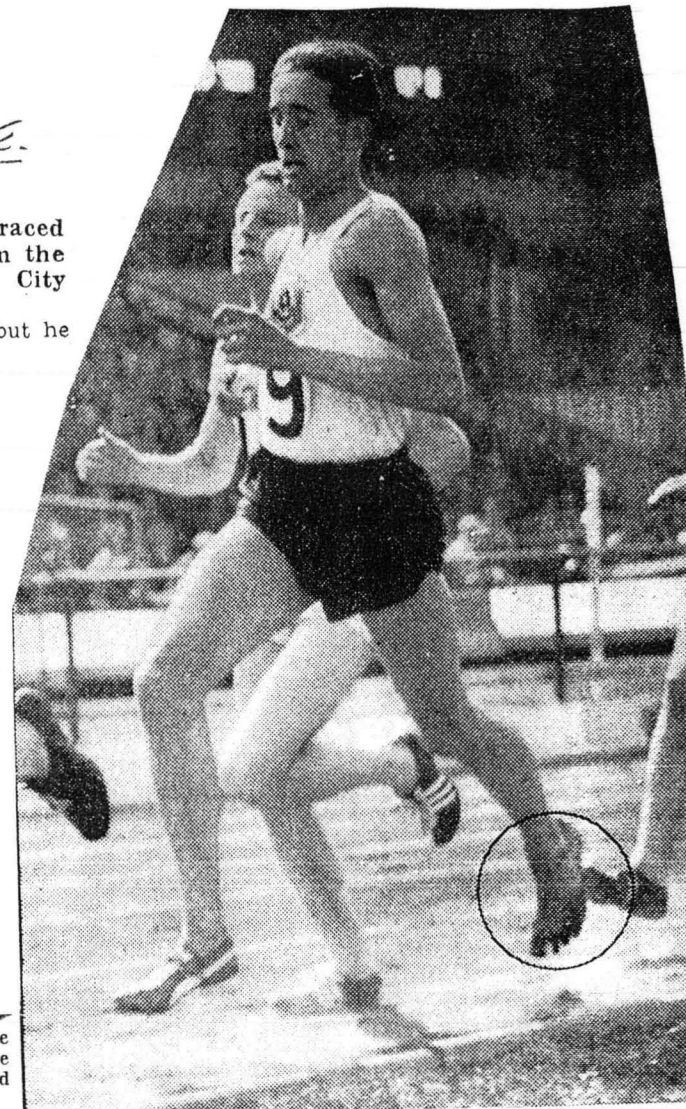
## 'Not for me'

A doctor took one look at Pirie's injuries and said: "Anti-tetanus injection for you." "Not for me," said Pirie and, despite the doctor's warning of possible ill consequences, he still refused.

When Pirie went British hopes died. Iharos, nicely tucked in a few yards behind the leaders, stayed there until the halfway stage.

Then, tiring of the slow pace, he went into the lead and gradually drew away to win by 40 yards with the second Hungarian, Sandor Rozsnyoi, beating Velisi Mugosa, of Yugoslavia, into second place.

THE moment before he dropped out . . . Pirie, one shoe missing, strides on amid flying spikes.



## UNIVERSITIES ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS.

MANCHESTER, 1956

## 3,000 METRES INVITATION RACE.

## GORDON PIRIE HITS FORM AT LAST

By VIC SELWYN

GORDON PIRIE has proved he is fit at last. He ran a brilliant 3,000 metres at the White City, Manchester, yesterday in 8m. 9.4s.

And this with one foot which had two toes pitted with holes from last week's barefoot performance at White City, London.

I saw the foot before the race and the holes were quite deep with raw flesh exposed.

But Derek Ibbotson's performance in this invitation event at the Universities' Athletic Union meeting was equally brilliant.

He finished so close behind Gordon that he was credited with the same time. Ibbotson had never run the distance before.

## CHASED

With 300 yards to go, Ibbotson went past Pirie so fast that Gordon was left ten yards behind.

Pirie chased furiously round the last bend, regained the lead five yards before the tapes and just held by inches Derek's final sprint.



Pirie beating Ibbotson

## Pirie Outwits Ibbotson

GORDON PIRIE ran a brilliant tactical race to win the 3,000 metres special event at the Universities' athletic championships at Manchester's White City this afternoon.

Within four hundred yards, Pirie and Derek Ibbotson began to detach themselves from the field. Ibbotson obviously had no desire to lead and consequently Pirie had to take the brunt of the pace.

To counter this, Pirie noticeably slowed the pace just after the "bell" enticing Ibbotson into the lead.

When his pursuer eventually jumped ahead Pirie was waiting for him. Then the battle was deadly on with Ibbotson leading and Pirie in pursuit.

Ten yards from the tape Pirie drew level and won by a foot. Both were timed at 8 min. 9.4 sec.—second fastest by a home athlete in this country.





## FATEST MILE

### A.A.A. WIN MATCH

Gordon Pirie, back to his best, ran his fastest mile when he clocked 4min 4.6sec at Motspur Park last night, competing for the A.A.A. against London University.

University miler C. P. Roberts set a slow pace, with Pirie in third place until the half-mile, reached in the slow time of 2min 7sec. Bursting to the front at the half-distance, Pirie raced away on his own. In the next 200 yards he had gained a 25-yard advantage over J. S. Evans. He reached the three-quarter mile in 3min 4.4sec, having run this lap in the extraordinary time of 56.5sec, and went on to increase his advantage.

## Gordon Pirie the Star Attraction

Gordon Pirie, probably the best known of all British athletes, treated spectators at Stompond Lane, Walton, to a double thrill on Saturday when he ran his best-ever mile and within two hours captured a second ground record in winning the three miles.

Pirie was running in the Heathfield annual sports, the biggest inter-club meeting in the country, and delayed his holiday to Norway in order to run.

These two performances were undoubtedly the highlights of the excellent afternoon's racing, in which no less than fifteen clubs competed for Heathfield Shield, won this year by Belgrave Harriers with 21 points. Polytechnic Harriers finished second with 16 points, with South London Harriers third two points behind, and Walton, winners in the two previous years, fourth with ten points.

Points were awarded in eight events, but in addition there was the annual 15 miles road race in which teams from Queens Park Harriers, Derby and County A.C. and Maidenhead C & A C competed against six of the clubs who were taking part in the team events, together with individual runners from another twenty clubs.

The mile was a special invitation event to enable Pirie to have a crack at beating his best-ever time of 4 mins. 4.6 secs., set up only a fortnight previously. Unfortunately, only four of the six runners who were to pace him were there and one of these had to drop out after only 300 yards.

Pirie completed the first lap in 60.6 secs., and the half-mile in 2 mins. 2.2 secs., but from then on he was out on his own with no one to push him. Pirie took the

the last man just before the mile, and half a mile later had increased his lead on Salvat to 100 yards and on J. Brown, the English international who was running third, to 200 yards.

Again he was out on his own having to make his own pace and he crossed the 2-mile mark in 9 mins. 5 secs., 250 yards up on Brown, who had displaced Salvat in second position. Half a lap later Pirie passed his second man and went on to complete this distance in 13 mins. 45.6 secs., nearly half a minute better than the ground record of 14 mins. 14.2 secs. set up by K. Norris, of Thames Valley Harriers, the previous year. He was then nearly half a lap ahead of Brown, who ran second in 14 mins. 14.8 secs. — .6 of a second slower than Norris's record — and lapped half of the field. Salvat ran third in 14 mins. 57.4 secs., with Tony Llewellyn, of Walton, fourth in 14 mins. 59 secs.

HEATHFIELD TROPHY SPORTS.  
WALTON, 1956.

## Pirie's after a big catch



### WINNER

GORDON PIRIE  
*Busman's holiday.*

By TONY HORSTEAD

GORDON PIRIE is off to Norway tomorrow for a fishing holiday—and he hopes to land an unusually big catch.

Quite coincidentally, of course, he has selected Bergen for his ten days' holiday, and it so happens that next week-end a select Russian team is competing in . . . Bergen!

And the fanatically ambitious "Puff-puff" hopes to race against the great Russian Vladimir Kuts over 5,000 metres.

Whatever his critics may say, there is no doubt that the determined Pirie is fighting his way back.

He certainly showed at Walton, Surrey, on Saturday, that he has every chance of becoming the ninth man to break the four-minute mile barrier.

With no one to pace him, galloping Gordon won the invitation mile in 4m. 3.6s., clipping a second off his



**G**ORDON PIRIE, the Croydon paint salesman so many were ready to write off as a top-class international athlete because of his succession of breakdowns, smashed the world record for 5,000 metres in Bergen, Norway, last night.

He raced the 5,000 metres (3 miles 188 yards) in the fantastic time of 13 mins. 36.8 secs. and beat the Russian champion, Vladimir Kuc, by 25 yards in the process.

Kuc, who chased Pirie home in an almost sprint finish, also beat the old world record with a time of 13mins. 39.6secs.

The previous record was 13 mins. 40.6secs., set by the Hungarian, Sandor Iharos, in Budapest last October.

Unfortunately, no time was taken at the three miles point of the race for this, too, must have been a world record.

Here is 25-year-old Pirie's own story of the race as given to Roy Moor in an exclusive interview:

### My revenge

What a race... what a thrill to have won it. I was determined to get my revenge on Vladimir for that beating he gave me in Moscow last year.

Obviously Kuc meant business, too. As soon as we were off Kuc was away into the lead, setting a real scorcher. I was determined to stay with him.

The first 400 metres was run in around 60 to 61 seconds. I was at his elbow. The positions were the same as we went through the 800 metres in around 2min. 3sec.

I was thoroughly enjoying it. This was just what I wanted, somebody with a fast pace to take me along. I was able to run nicely relaxed at his heel.

There were times when I sensed Kuc wanted to ease the pace. That was not what I wanted. So every time there was any slackening off I moved up to his shoulder and Kuc

would increase the tempo again. So it went on.

I was by no means certain of winning. But all the while I reckoned I had a good chance.

Our placings remained unchanged until about 270 yards from the finish. Then I decided it was now or never. I went.

I tore past Kuc with every scrap of energy I could find. I still felt good and went on packing in the pace for all I was worth.

I could hear Kuc giving chase. But I sensed I'd got him, and I had.

You could have knocked me down with a feather when they said I had broken the record.

Well done, Gordon.

Pirie's prize? A silver spoon.





3,000 metres International Race at Trondheim, Norway 1956

# GORDON PIRIE IN ANOTHER SENSATION

## He equals 3,000 metres world record

GORDON PIRIE, the incredible, fantastic Gordon Pirie, has done it again!

Running at a Trondheim (Norway) meeting last night, he equalled the world record of 7m. 55.6s. for the 3,000 metres.

This was the time returned by Sandor Iharos, the great Hungarian, in Budapest thirteen months ago.

### HE'S EAGER

It was only on Tuesday that Pirie shattered Iharos's world record for 5,000 metres by 3.8s., with 13m. 36.8s., in Bergen.

No wonder Iharos is eager to meet the tall, lean paint salesman from Surrey again—on his home track in Budapest!

He issued an invitation to Pirie yesterday to a race over 5,000 metres there on August 19.

The Trondheim crowd

### MIRROR SPORT REPORTER

went wild with enthusiasm last night when it was announced—in error—that Pirie had broken the world record by two-tenths of a second.

When this was corrected to an announcement that he had equalled the record, Pirie smiled and said: "There are sure to be other chances."

The first of these, in fact, will come tomorrow, when Pirie will run in a special 3,000 metres race against Sandor Rozsnyoi, of Hungary, at the big Olympic Day meeting in Amsterdam.

### MADE RUNNING

Jerzy Chromik, the Polish steeplechase specialist, was Pirie's chief rival last night and he made the most of the running with the Englishman occasionally taking over to step up the pace.

With just over one hundred yards to go, Pirie flashed to the front and, finishing quite fresh, won comfortably from Chromik whose time was 7m. 56.4s.

"I was prepared for a fast time," said Pirie, "as conditions were excellent and there was such a good

runner as Chromik in the race.

"WITHOUT HIM THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO WORLD RECORD."

Pirie's final 400 metres in 60s. was his fastest of the race, and exactly one second faster than the next best—the first 400 metres.

It was, in fact, a remarkably even run, as he covered the first 1,500 metres in 3m. 58s., and the second 1,500 metres in 3m. 57.6s.

Pirie's previous best time was 8m. 9.4s.

Now Pirie is thinking of aiming at the 1,500 metres—the metric mile—in the Olympic Games in November.

"I think that distance would be almost as suitable for me as the 5,000 metres," he said last night.



Rozsądny trening i rozsądna polityka startów Jerzego Chromika dają cora lepsze rezultaty. W Trondheim w Norwegii nasz najlepszy biegacz w zaciętej walce z Gordonem Pirie ustanowił nowy rekord Polski na 3000 m — 7:56,4. Oto jaka droga kroczył Chromik do tego rekordu: 1951 r. — 8:54,2, 1952 r. — 8:52,2, 1953 r. — 8:21,0, 1954 r. — 8:08,8, 1955 r. — 8:04,6, 10.VI.56 r. — 8:02,2, 22.VI.56 r. — 7:56,4.

1,500 metres International Race at Amsterdam, Holland 1956

# 6-DAY WONDER PIRIE ROMPS HOME AGAIN

AMSTERDAM, Sunday.

BRITAIN'S unpredictable Gordon Pirie rounded off the six days in which he has shaken the athletics world by thrashing an international field over 1,500 metres—the metric mile.

His time, 3min. 43.7sec., knocks 3.5 seconds off his best for the distance, breaks a seven-year-old Dutch national record, and is the equivalent of a mile in the barest fraction over four minutes.

The world record is 3min 40.8sec. by Hungarians Sandor Iharos and Laszlo Tabori, and Gunnar Nielsen (Denmark).

Pirie's six-day saga, reeled off with a Zatopek disregard for the conventions of stamina, began on Tuesday when he interrupted his Norwegian fishing holiday to slash nearly four seconds off the 5,000 metres world record in Bergen. He moved on to Trondheim, where, on Friday, he equalled the world 3,000 metres record.

Yesterday, 35-year-old paint salesman Pirie from Coulsdon, got up at 5 a.m. and arrived here, via Oslo and Copenhagen, late at night.

And, this afternoon, he was thrilling a 34,000 crowd, including Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard, at Amsterdam's "Little Olympics."

### Tucked in

At the end of a lap, long-legged Pirie was tucked in a yard behind East Germany's Klaus Richtzenhain, with 21-year-old Cambridge history student Roger Dunkley third of the 12. They held that order for two more laps—Pirie puffing and red-vested Richtzenhain anxiously peering back—until the bell. Dunkley faded, and was passed by Hungary's Jozsef Szegledi.

Three hundred yards from home, Pirie surged past the German, with huge strides down the back straight. Richtzenhain jumped arms and legs in vain. Pirie broke the tape a good four yards ahead, with Szegledi third and Dunkley a game fourth.

### Even speed

For a man primarily regarded as a distance runner Pirie showed astonishingly even speed over the shorter course. His 400-metre lap times were: 60.6sec., 61.2sec., 61.8sec.

His time is more than 4sec. faster than the stadium record set last year by four-minute-miler Brian Hewson.

Pirie, completely composed at the finish, was only faintly interested in his time—"I run to win"—and as for the exertions of the week, he simply commented: "Yes, I did feel a bit tired today, particularly in the first lap."

That was when he came through the rack on the outside, to shift from seventh to second place. Looking on today was Fanny Blankers-Koen, Holland's triple Olympic champion of 1948. She leant from the stands to pat

### HARRY CARPENTER reports on NON-STOP GORDON

Pirie on the shoulder afterwards and said: "I hope everything goes well with you in Melbourne."

Pirie is going to be Britain's No. 1 Olympic problem. The selectors will have the headache of deciding just what Pirie should go for: 1,500 metres, 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres? Right now, this irrepressible man gives the impression he could tackle the lot, with golden prospects in all three.



Gordon Pirie, de Engelse allround looper, die deze week op drie wedstrijden atletiekgeschiedenis maakte.

1500 meter: 1. Pirie (Eng.) 3 min. 43,7 sec. (nieuw stadionrecord); 2. Richtzenhain (Oost-Duitsland) 3 min. 44,5 sec.; 3. Szegledi (Hong.) 3 min. 47,7 sec.; 4. Dunkley (Eng.) 3 min. 49,1 sec.; 5. Blankenstein (Ned.) 3 min. 54,2

## PIRIE, STILL IN A HURRY, 'FASTER YET'

GORDON PIRIE could not stay long for interviewers and autograph hunters when he landed at London Airport yesterday. "You'll have to excuse me, I have some training to do," he said.

But before he left, and after being congratulated on his 5,000-metres world record, he said:

"I haven't reached my peak yet. I think with harder training I can get stronger, which means I will be able to go faster."

Of his record-breaking run he said: "I enjoyed the race, and it's good to be a world record-holder, but really the time was a secondary consideration."

About his chances for the Olympics, he said: "I hope I am chosen, and I sincerely hope I will be allowed to run in more than one event. I don't intend to concentrate on any particular distance between now and then."

Pirie's last words were: "I do want to thank all the groundsmen on running tracks in London who make my training possible, and also the doctors who pulled me through my serious injury



cheeks puffing at every fourth pounding pace like a galloping goldfish, had the crowd cheering him as they have never cheered before at Croydon Sports Arena on Wednesday evening.

Pirie failed by 23 seconds in an heroic, virtually solo bid to beat Emil Zatopek's two year old world record for 10,000 metres.

He started in great style. Excitement mounted as the announcer called out his time at 1,000 metres and that run two years ago by Zatopek.

Pirie was beating Zatopek's time at every stage until the 7,000 metres

By **BILL WARD**

mark. He lapped the entire field, some of them twice.

At 3,000 metres, a great roar went up as it was announced that Pirie was ahead of Zatopek's schedule by a full nine seconds, in 8-min. 29-sec.

#### EXHORTATION

A man in a brown trilby pranced, cheer-leader style, in front of the stand, calling for applause and yet more applause from the crowd.

Suddenly a hush, a disappointed silence, fell when Pirie dropped from 2.2-sec. in front of the schedule at 6,000 metres (17-min. 20.8-sec.) to 5.6-sec. behind at 7,000 metres.

From then on, the invisible Zatopek had the lead. But the man in the brown trilby kept prancing, the crowd kept clapping the laps, and Pirie kept on, lap after lap, puff after puff. Now, though, some of the tenseness had gone.

Tired as he was, Pirie turned in a breathless 62.5-sec. last lap, faster even than his first. Finally, he clocked 29-min. 17.2-sec., the fastest 10,000 metres ever run in this country and equalling his personal best.

On the way round he created a new English native five miles record of 23-min. 32.8-sec.

#### NO ASSISTANCE

This with no assistance at all from the other five runners in the race, and in conditions far from ideal for record breaking: a sodden, unresponsive track whipped by a 15 miles per hour wind.

Pirie told the crowd over the loudspeaker afterwards: "I'm sorry I did a slow time." This brought a great "NO" from the 4,000 throng, a record attendance.

He said to me later: "It wasn't the track that beat me, there was nothing wrong with it, nor the wind. I just didn't run fast enough."



In a coat-shirt and shorts, with a ruck-sack over his shoulder, Gordon Pirie, who broke the 5,000 metres world record in Norway, arrives in Brighton to train for another record attempt. He is to attack the 10,000 metres record to-morrow.





**GALLOPING** Gordon Pirie continues to astonish me. Running practically unpaced through a dirty drizzle and chopping cross-wind on the back stretch, the long, lean Pirie did the mile of his life and the best in Britain this year at Croydon yesterday.

The 5,000 metres world record holder falled by only 2.2 seconds to break the four-minute mile — two precious seconds, for which the wind was to blame.

Pirie's time — 4min. 2.2sec., which was 4.2sec. slower than John Landy's world record — was absolutely magnificent considering the conditions.

It is also the second time this season he has clocked the fastest British mile. Last June, at Walton-on-Thames, I saw him do 4min. 3.6sec.

Thus the unpredictable Pirie has set Britain's Olympic selectors the trickiest of puzzles.

### Conclusive

World-famed as a 5,000 and 10,000 metres runner, Pirie has conclusively proved that he is right up at the top of the heap over the shorter 1,500 metres and mile distances.

I know, too, that Pirie would like to run the mile in an international event — but I still cannot see the Olympic selection committee picking him for this distance at Melbourne. But we shall see.

After he had pulled up, undistressed, Gordon said: "Except for a nervous twinge I have no trouble at all from my knee."

Then he added jocularly, "It's you — pointing at me — you're my jinx. You always bring the wet weather with you."

Joking apart, "Puff Puff" was beaten in his four-minute-mile bid by two factors: —

(1) That ten-mile-an-hour cross-wind.

(2) You must have pacemakers to run against the clock.

His lap times tell the story of this glorious failure. They were 57.8 seconds, 61.4 seconds, 63 seconds, and 60 seconds.

It was obvious when the time-keeper called out three minutes 2.2 seconds for the three-quarter mile that Pirie would not become the ninth human in the world to burst through the magic mile barrier.

"I hoped on Friday to break the four-minute mile," he said, "but today, when I saw the weather, I knew it was off."

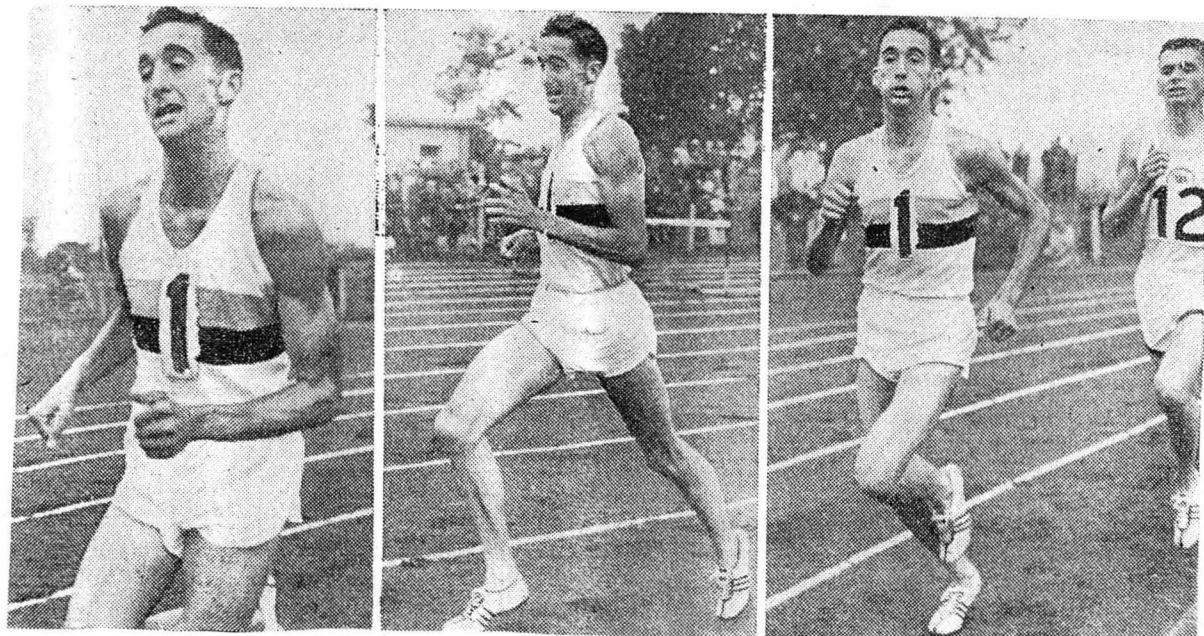
That did not prevent Pirie, 25-year-old Coulsdon paint salesman, from having a damn good try!

Before the race Pirie wore the dark blue sweat-shirt given him by Vladimir Kuts, the famous Russian runner he beat over 5,000 metres in Norway last June. But, alas, Kuts's shirt brought "Puff Puff" no luck yesterday.

CROYDON v BIRMINGHAM  
1 MILE 1956.



It's the end of the fastest mile in Britain this season. Gordon Pirie races to the tape in 4min 2.2sec in yesterday's inter-city athletics meeting at Croydon.



2 mile Invitation Race CROYDON 1956



Gordon Pirie confirmed his Olympic berth at Croydon on Wednesday night.



**EACH** of the 3,520 yards run by Gordon Pirie to clock the fastest two miles time in the world this year, was a yard of agony. His 8min. 42.6sec. on Wednesday at Croydon was only 9.2sec. outside the world record held by Sandor Iharos of Hungary. Yet Pirie was a sick man. Not until after the race did he admit that he had been suffering with stomach trouble during the day.

Pirie who has so often been accused of sour grapes—really had grape trouble. He had eaten some and they upset him. Originally Pirie intended to run in the one mile event (won by Brasher in 4min. 18sec.) in the Croydon and Commonwealth versus England match—but this phenomenal runner decided the two mile event would be slower!

Frank Sando, selected with Pirie for the Olympic 10,000 metres, led the field over the first lap (63.4sec.), then, following the pattern of all his races

this season, Pirie moved to the front, and stayed there. He passed the half-mile in 2min. 9.6sec., and subsequent laps were 3min. 11.6sec., 4min. 14.6 sec., 5min. 20.6sec., 6min. 28.2 sec., 7min. 35.8sec., running the final quarter in 66.8sec. His mile time was 3.4sec. faster than Brasher had recorded earlier in the evening!

Roland Langridge (South London Harriers) ran well to finish third, behind Pirie and Sando, clocking 9min. 11.2sec.

## Pirie misses AAA title chance

By HAROLD PALMER

Gordon Pirie, that tall, lean 25-year-old record-breaker from Coulsdon, will not run in the AAA championships this week-end. A strained ligament behind his left knee is, in fact, likely to prevent his doing any fast work for about two weeks.

Pirie had planned to run only in the mile, although he had also entered the 3 miles and the 6 miles.

Following heats on Friday evening he had visions of winning Saturday's final in a fast time perhaps even within the 4-minute mark.

Now his doctor says: "You could run in the championships but you would risk tearing the ligaments and setting yourself back a couple of months."

**Will not take risk**

Pirie will not take that risk. He reckons he will also have to miss a 2-mile race planned for Man-

### PIRIE TRAINS AT DESERTED BRICKFIELDS

**GORDON** PIRIE, one of Britain's leading runners, arrived in Plymouth last night where he is to watch the finals of the All England Inter-County School Athletic Championships at the Brickfields today.

Immediately he went to the deserted Brickfields track where he did 50 minutes' rigorous training.

Not until then would he have anything to eat.

Then straight from the track he attended a civic reception in Plymouth's Art Gallery with his 20-year-old fiancée, Miss Shirley Hampton, who has run for Britain at 100 and 220 yards.

There it was a case of "Two glasses of orange squash, please. Nothing stronger, if you don't mind."

Among those who chatted informally with Pirie at the civic reception were Miss Joan Vickers, M.P. for Devonport, and Mr. J. J. Astor.

### My leg OK, says Pirie

**BRITISH** athletic officials are worried about Gordon Pirie's fitness for the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

Pirie has been advised to see the British athletic board's medical officer.

After running an exhibition half-mile in 1min. 56.7sec. at Plymouth on Saturday, Pirie said: "This should relieve officials who worry about my leg injury. I think if there was anything seriously wrong with my leg, it would have broken down last week, when I ran more than 200 miles in training."

"But it's still not quite right. I am not running freely. I'll see how things go and perhaps try it out next

### To meet Queen

Pirie will, however, be among the party of athletes to be presented to the Queen at the White City on Friday afternoon. Those receiving this honour are the Empire champions, last year's special AAA trophy winners, and Pirie in view of his world record

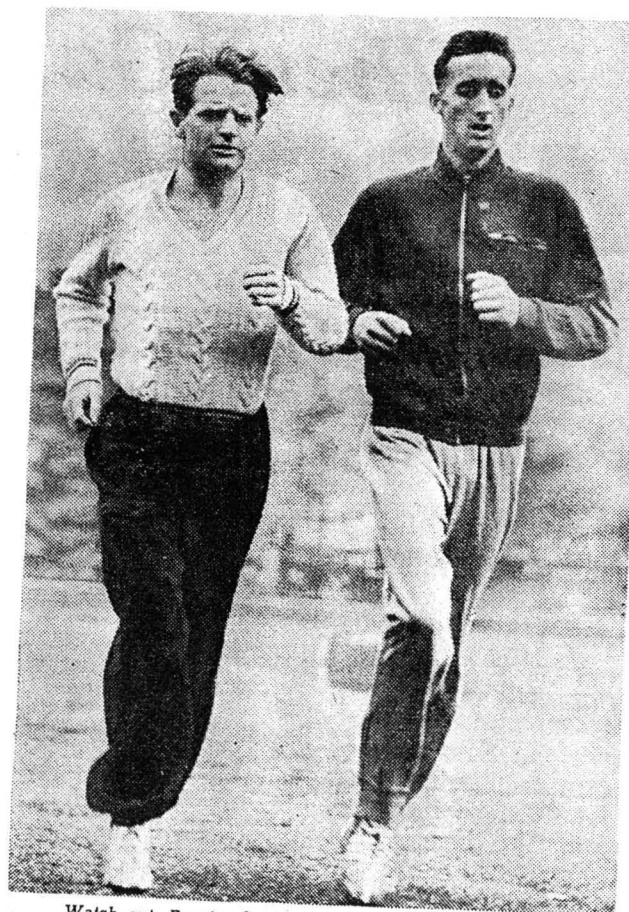




**A** MICALBLE athletes, Gordon Pirie, Vladimir Kuc and Christopher Chataway discuss the withdrawal of the Russian team from today's White City international against Great Britain. One of the highlights of the match would have been the 10,000 metres battle between Pirie and the fair-haired Russian



Gordon Pirie seen wearing the Russian track suit top presented to him in Moscow last September. The C.C.C.P. is the Cyrillic script for S.S.S.R. which stands for "Soyuz Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik."



Watch out, Russia—here come Chris Chataway and Gordon Pirie. Britain's crack athletes were promising opponents tough opposition as they trained together at the Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea, for the international match against the Russians at White City on August 31 and September 1. Chataway, left, is nominated for the three miles and Pirie for the six miles. ("Star" picture.)

World Record 3,000 metres 1956  
MALMOE SWEDEN.

## WORLD 3,000m. RECORD GOES

**G**ORDON PIRIE trounced Hungary's Big Three and set a new world record of 7 minutes 52.8 seconds for the 3,000 metres here tonight.

He outgeneralled Sandor Iharos, Istvan Rozsavoelgyi and Laszlo Tabori to send 9,450 Swedes wild with delight. And he kept a promise made before flying for Sweden: "There'll be a new 3,000 metres record," he said.

The Hungarians had their coaches, Mihaly Igloi and Josep Sir, with them. The idea was to demolish the confidence of the man they regard as their greatest threat in the Olympic Games. The plan was that Tabori and Iharos should alternate the lead in the early stages, and that Istvan Rozsavoelgyi should deliver the *coup de grace*.

Pirie unleashed all the nervous energy he had pent up for the cancelled Russian match in the last lap, and pulled wide of the wilting Rozsavoelgyi to break the tape four yards in front, beating the previous world record, which he held jointly with Iharos, by the astounding margin of 2.8 seconds.

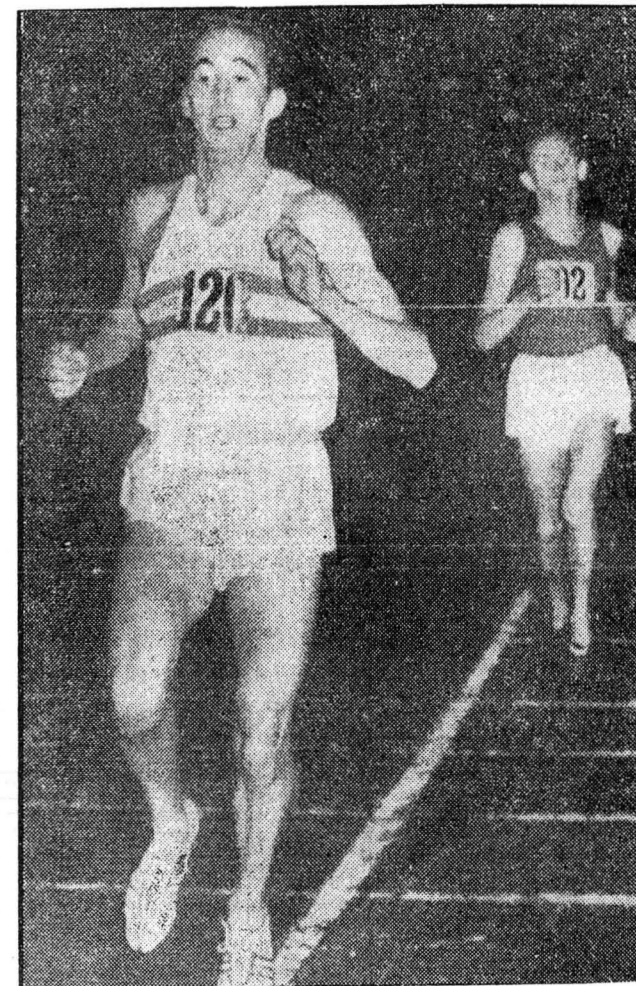
### OLYMPIC CHIEF DELIGHTED

Then Pirie ran a lap of honour in the floodlit stadium before receiving his prize—a two-and-a-half-pint beer mug. After the race he said: "I was a bit worried in the first part of the last lap, but I knew I had him at the last bend." Swedish experts voted this "the greatest race we have ever seen."

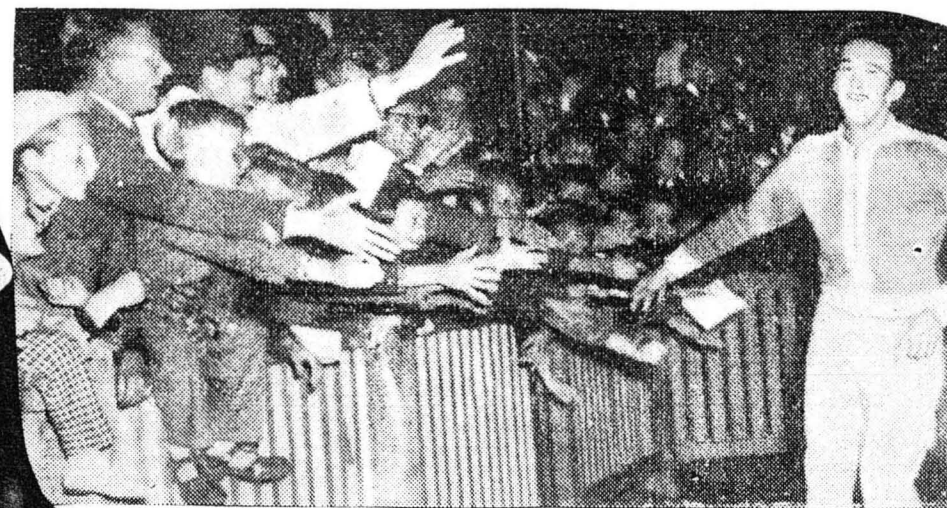
**JACK CRUMP**, British Olympic team manager, was delighted with the news. He said: "Who dares say now that Pirie hasn't a chance of winning both the 5,000 and 10,000 metres titles at Melbourne?"

Pirie will not run against Hungary at Budapest on September 29 and 30. He has been given special permission to leave for Australia on September 26 to continue training over there.

**RESULT:** 1. Gordon Pirie (Britain) 7min. 52.8sec. (world record); 2. Istvan Rozsavoelgyi (Hungary) 7-53.4 (Hungarian record); 3. Sandor Iharos (Hungary) 8-5.8; 4. Laszlo Tabori (Hungary) 8-16.3; 5. Roger Dunkley (Britain) 8-20.2.



Gordon Pirie completes the fastest-ever 3,000 metres last night



### New Record For Gordon

Britain's wonder athlete Gordon Pirie is acclaimed by the crowd after he had run his greatest race last night to break the world's 3,000 metre record at Malmoe, Sweden. He beat Istvan Rozsavoelgyi, the world's 1,500 metres champion, Sandor Iharos, previous co-holder with Pirie of the 3,000 metres



1,500 metres International Race (COPENHAGEN) 1966



Ved klokken fører Pirie foran Gunnar Nielsen med Hewson — paa inderbanen — og Allan Gordon paa de næste pladser.

## Pirie again! Now he beats 4-min. milers

Mirror Sport Reporter  
Copenhagen, Thursday.  
**BRITAIN'S** Gordon Pirie, holder of the world 3,000 and 5,000 metres records, won a slow 1,500 metres race in which it had been planned that he was to run as "hare" for Brian Hewson and the Dane, Gunnar Nielsen, here tonight.

But the tactics went wrong on the track, and Pirie won in the slow time of 3m. 49.2s.

The tactics failed because Pirie's feet were too sore from his record 3,000 metres run in Malmö to set the pace, and because Nielsen was "too tired."

Nielsen arrived in Copenhagen today from a Swiss athletic meeting.

But slow time or not, nothing can detract from Pirie's achievement in beating Hewson and Niel-

sen, who have both broken the four-minute mile barrier.

Nielsen led for 200 metres but Pirie took over at 400 metres. At 1,000 metres the tempo had slowed, with Pirie still in the lead, and no one seemed keen to increase it.

With 200 metres to go, however, Hewson spurred and the others took up the challenge. Over the last 50 metres, Hewson gained rapidly on Pirie, who just breasted the tape in front.

Pirie said after the race: "I am sorry I couldn't act as 'hare' tonight as I promised. My feet were so sore from the world record race in Malmö. I simply could not set the pace."

### 'Lucky'

"I was lucky to win, for had Hewson attacked just a bit earlier he would have beaten me."

"But it was a poor race. I did not feel like running at all tonight and only did so because I had promised to."

**FOOTNOTE:** Galloping Gordon, who was to have run a 1,500 metres or mile race in Bergen (Norway) on Sunday, has been refused permission to race there, said Mr. Jack Crump, British team manager.



## PIRIE WAITS FOR WORD: GO

ONLY one small piece of paper stands between Gordon Pirie and the sunshine of New Zealand—a seven-year contract he signed with a City paint firm two-and-a-half years ago.

Paint salesman Pirie has asked the firm to release him so that he can emigrate.

He and his fiancée, 22-year-old sprinter Shirley Hampton are pictured below in yesterday's English rain.



## 'I MIGHT NOT COME BACK'—SAYS PIRIE

MIRROR SPORT  
REPORTER

GORDON PIRIE will not return to Britain after the Melbourne Olympics in November—if he decides to settle in Australia or New Zealand.

Pirie told B.B.C. television last night: "I have been considering emigrating for about a year now but I have not made any definite plans yet."

"IF I DECIDE TO EMIGRATE I WOULD STAY OUT THERE. THERE WOULD NOT BE MUCH SENSE IN MAKING A DOUBLE JOURNEY."

Pirie is due to marry sprinter Shirley Hampton in London this month three days before he leaves for the Olympic Games.

Shirley is in favour of a home in Australia.

Last night, her mother, Mrs. Harold Hampton, said: "If they like Australia they may stay there."

may even go ourselves in the future."

Organisers of tomorrow's international meeting in Bergen, Norway, said last night that the refusal of the A.A.A. to let Pirie, Bryan Hewson and Roger Dunkley run there was a "BOMBSHELL."

Jack Crump, A.A.A. secretary, said yesterday: "We think that they have done enough racing until next week."

## In-a-whirl Pirie crashes —twice

By FRANK ROSTRON

GORDON PIRIE ("I'm all in a whirl") ran his fastest 1,500 metres last night, beat Chris Chataway, and lost—to a German.

The crowd of 35,000 packing the White City to see the floodlit international meeting organised by the Daily Express saw Klaus Richtzenhain win.

His time was 3m. 43secs. Pirie's two-fifths of a second slower. Chataway was third.

Why was Pirie "all in a whirl"? First, on the advice of his German coach, Gerschler, he made an eleventh-hour switch from the 800 metres to the 1,500.

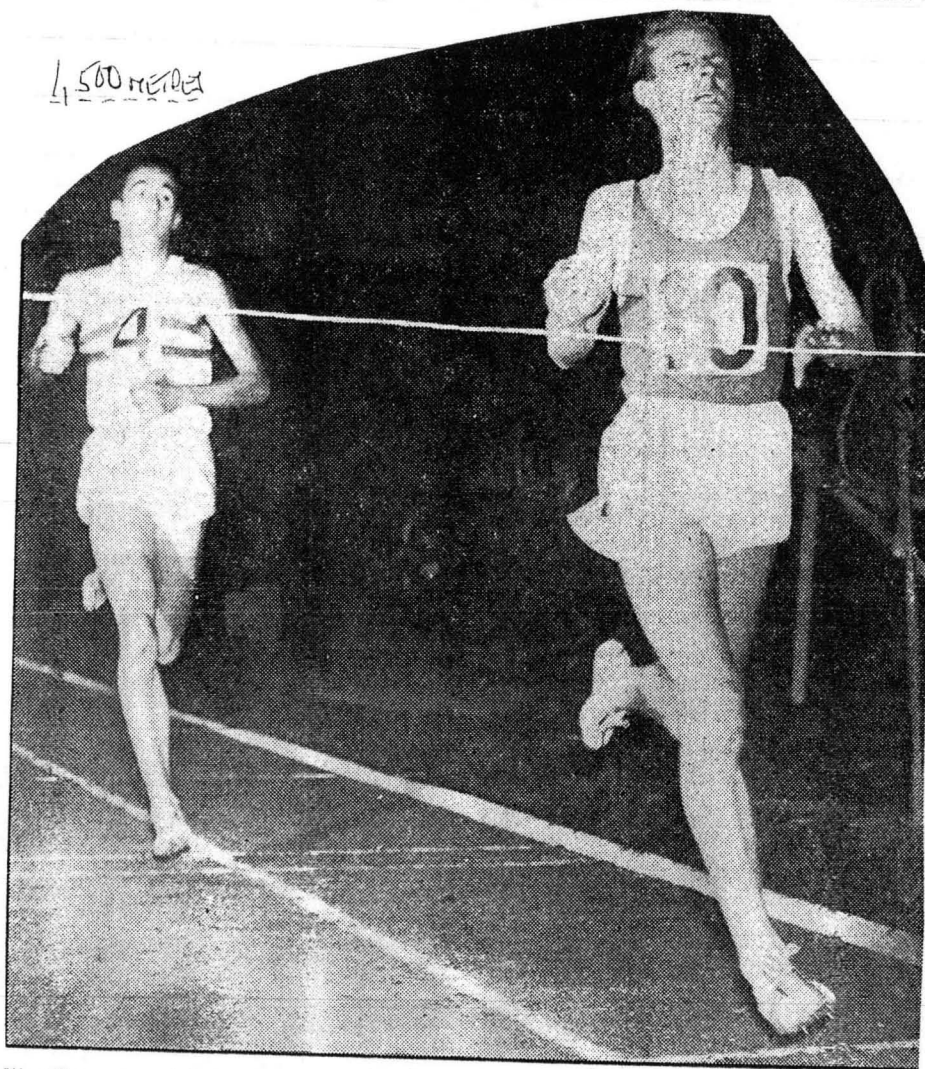
Then he fixed his wedding to athlete Shirley Hampton (Caxton Hall, September 24—two days before he sails for Melbourne and the Olympic Games).

Next... "I had a car crash at Shepherd's Bush. Not much damage, but upsetting."

"Then I got in a 40-minute traffic jam and in trying to park in a hurry I drove slap



DAILY EXPRESS FLASHLIGHT SPORTS  
WHITE CITY 1956.



It's all over... Klaus Richtzenhain, of East Germany, reaches the tape to win the 1,500 metres at White City after resisting tremendous challenge by Gordon Pirie.

WELL, THAT'S IT, CHRIS...



A STARTLING roar of cheers from 45,000 people hailed Gordon Pirie's magnificent effort to bid farewell to the White City with a victory in the 1,500 metres race last night.

Pirie made a terrific effort, but, although he beat his previous best time for the distance by seven-tenths of a second, he was beaten into second place by the East German champion of last year, Klaus Richtzenhain.

Pirie and Chris Chataway, who were making their last appearances in big-time athletics in this country, were expected to battle out this race, but Chataway could do no better than get into third place, three seconds behind Pirie.

Richtzenhain's time was 3min. 43sec.—well outside the record—but the German ran so clever a race that once he had taken the lead in the third lap he never looked like losing it.

Pirie was lying second in the first lap to John Davies of Belgrave Harriers, who came in at the last moment. Chataway was lying sixth but in the next bend he came up to pass Pirie and it looked as if the hopes of the crowd were going to be fulfilled by the spectacle of an all-British tussle at the finish.

#### Brave effort

It was not to be. Richtzenhain, running well within himself, took the lead the third time round, passing Chataway, Alan Gordon and Pirie in turn.

The scene was thus set for a thrilling finish and it was here that Pirie, as if he sensed the unsaid prayers of the spectators, made his brave effort to snatch the victory.

He moved up smoothly and steadily and, within sight of the tape, actually levelled with the German.

Together they raced shoulder to shoulder amid the excited uproar. Richtzenhain, however, was not to be robbed of the success which he had so obviously planned with meticulous care.

As the tape came into view, the German lengthened his stride and, in a magnificent burst, he got home 4-10ths of a second ahead of Pirie.

Chataway was 20 yards away in 3min. 46.4sec. and at no time did he threaten to give really serious challenge to either the German or Pirie.

It is interesting to note that the last time Pirie and Chataway met was three years ago when Pirie won over a mile.

Pirie has made a niche for himself in the annals of British athletics and if he definitely decides, as I think he will, to emigrate to New Zealand after the Olympic Games at Melbourne, he will take with him the good wishes of everybody in this country.

#### 4 MILES RELAY for the "VICTORY TROPHY" (4 x 1 Mile)

The "Victory Trophy" was given after the 1914-18 War by the London Athletic Club to commemorate the Allied Victory, and was offered for annual competition for a 4x440 Yards Relay Race. It was won outright in 1926 by the Achilles Club, who then re-presented it as a perpetual Trophy for annual competition for a 4x1 Mile Relay Race.

Previous Best Performance—1952: WALTON ATHLETIC CLUB, 17 min. 16 sec. British (National) Record and World's Record—16 min. 48<sup>4</sup>/<sub>10</sub> sec., Great Britain and Northern Ireland Team, White City, London, 1st Aug., 1953



AT HURLINGHAM PARK 1956

NO fluffing of the baton change here as Peter Driver sends Gordon Pirie away on the last leg of the four-by-one mile relay at Hurlingham Park, London. Gordon did his mile in 4min. 9.4sec., but his team, South London Harriers, failed by 19.4sec. in their bid to lower the world record set up by Walton A C in 1953. Laurie Reed and Roland Langridge ran the first two legs for South London, who totalled 17min. 0.4sec.

#### Relay Record Bid Fails

South London Harriers, with D. A. G. Pirie running the last leg, failed in an attempt to break the world 4 x 1 mile relay record on Saturday at Hurlingham Park, London. The record of 16min. 41sec. was set up by a British team in 1953.

South London won by over 400yd. from Shaftesbury Harriers in 17min. 0.4sec., which was 15.6sec. better than the previous meeting record. L. Reed covered the first mile in 4min. 16.4sec., R. Langridge the second in 4min. 21.8sec., and P. B. Driver the third in 4min. 12.8sec. With the world record out of reach, Pirie ran the last leg in 4min. 9.4sec.





What's this? Why, it's those old rivals Gordon Pirie and Chris Chataway training together in London this week. They race against each other over a mile on Saturday.

## PIRIE MISSES HIS FAREWELL RACE

GORDON PIRIE, Britain's wonder long-distance runner, will not run in the mile event in the floodlit athletics meeting at White City (Manchester) tonight. He was to have run against Chris Chataway and Derek Ibbotson.

It was to have been Pirie's farewell race in Britain. He marries sprinter Shirley Hampton on Monday, and leaves on Thursday for Australia and Olympic Games preparation.

At his Coulsdon (Surrey) home last night, Pirie's brother Peter said: "Gordon stayed in bed yesterday and today since his inoculations."

A great pity Gordon has to drop out, Ibbotson, like Chataway, has already achieved a sub-four-minute mile, and between them the three might have produced something memorable.

**T**WO of Britain's fiercest track rivals, Gordon Pirie and Chris Chataway, have been training this week in secret . . . **TOGETHER.**

The result is almost certain to be a **FOUR-MINUTE MILE** when they race against each other at Manchester on Saturday.

And they may crack the world record—3m. 58s., held by John Landy.

Pirie and Chataway have been running at the Duke of York's barracks off the busy Kings-road, Chelsea, this week.

Pirie, world record-holder of the 3,000 and 5,000 metres, has set his heart on a four-minute mile. His best time to date is 4m. 2.2s.

He and Chataway, aided by Chris Brasher who helped in Roger Bannister's history-making four-

minute mile, have been concentrating on fast quarter-miles.

That was the basis of Bannister's preparation.

When I saw Pirie, Chataway and Brasher, there was almost a conspiratorial air as they jogged round, heads together in conversation in between their bursts of sprinting.

### Personal

This get-together has been a personal affair. An Amateur Athletics Association official said he knew nothing about it.

He told me: "It certainly has nothing to do with official Olympic training."

But whatever Chataway and Pirie plan for Man-



A dozen policemen needed to control of friends and well-wishers at Caxton Hall today. Gordon Pirie, the runner to represent Britain at the Olympic Games, married Shirley Hampton, one of the champion sprinters.

Hands clasped in the air, they drove to the station seated on the honeymoon sports car.

The day after tomorrow, who is 25, leaves for Melbourne. His bride will follow on October 27. She will be his wife, and not as a representative of Britain. She was picked for the team.

Her friend, Miss Jean Caxton, who was at the wedding, has been picked.

### Pink satin

Shirley, whose home is at Crofton Road, Orpington, wore pale pink for her wedding. On her head was a crown of pale pink flowers with long, down the back. Her wedding dress was of brocade, princess style and was short length. She wore white satin slippers.

Pirie, whose home is at Coulsdon, Surrey, arrived at Caxton Hall with his n-



Never look behind is a golden rule for athletes on the track, but Olympic runner Gordon Pirie ignores it as he and his bride, sprinter Shirley Hampton, leave Caxton Hall Register Office in an open car today for their wedding. Gordon was showing no signs of the



Happy smiles and waves from record-breaking runner Gordon Pirie and his bride, sprinter Miss Shirley Hampton, as they leave Caxton Hall Register Office in an open car today for their wedding. Gordon was showing no signs of the

### NOT ENOUGH PUFF

GORDON PIRIE, marrying sprinter Shirley Hampton at Caxton Hall tomorrow, should have said "I do" in a new suit made by his pal, tailor Brian Hewson. But with so many things on his mind, Gordon forgot to choose patterns until too late. I only hope he doesn't turn up in that Russian track suit given to him by Kuts.

Talking of Pirie—he was beaten by a newcomer to athletics last week at a secret midday training session in London.

Name of the newcomer was Max Bygraves—but you need not start worrying. Max was filming for a TV programme this week, and the way he shot past the Puff-Puff man was not all that surprising.



MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA 1956



## MRS. PIRIE HAS A PRIZE PROBLEM

**A** BAFFLER for the bride . . . How can sprinter Shirley Pirie, 14 days married, take to the other side of the world the scores of medals, plaques, cups, china and other trophies she and her husband, Gordon, have acquired between them? Freight charges to New Zealand, where they intend to settle after the Olympic Games, are "fantastic."

With only two weeks to go before Shirley sails, she still hasn't found a company pre-

pared to offer a price she thinks "even reasonable."

Merely packing and sending them to the docks would cost over £50.

Why not leave them behind? "No fear," says Shirley. Today they are stacked all around the house in Orpington, Kent, where Mrs. Pirie still lives with her parents.

## MRS. GORDON PIRIE SAILS



Mrs. Gordon Pirie—sprinter Sheila Hampton—waves from the deck of the liner Arcadia, which left Tilbury today. Mrs. Pirie is joining her husband in Melbourne, where he is training for the Olympic Games.



A new evening gown goes into the travelling case as Mrs. Gordon Pirie packs at her parents' home in Orpington for the journey to Australia. She sails from Tilbury on Monday, and hopes to meet her husband in Melbourne two days before the Olympic Games start next month. After the Games Mr. and Mrs. Pirie are to live in New Zealand.

## Olympic News

### PIRIE FLIES TO-NIGHT TO MELBOURNE

#### HE MAY BE BACK

By A Special Correspondent

Gordon Pirie, advance guard of the British Olympic athletics team, leaves London to-night by air for Melbourne to prepare for his task of running in the 10,000 and 5,000 metres.

He said in a television interview last night that he and his wife (the former Shirley Hampton) have no plans about their future in New Zealand, where they are to emigrate after the Games. They may both be back, representing New Zealand, for the Empire Games in Cardiff in 1958.

## THANK YOU SAYS PIRIE

**G**ORDON PIRIE made his farewell appearance on B.B.C. television's Sportsview last night. He leaves today for the Olympics in Melbourne. After the Games he and his wife, Shirley, intend to settle in New Zealand. Pirie said: "I don't think I could live without athletics. I hope I can put back into New Zealand sport something in exchange for what I have learned from British sport."

"This is all very overwhelming for me. I would like to thank everybody for what they have done to help me."

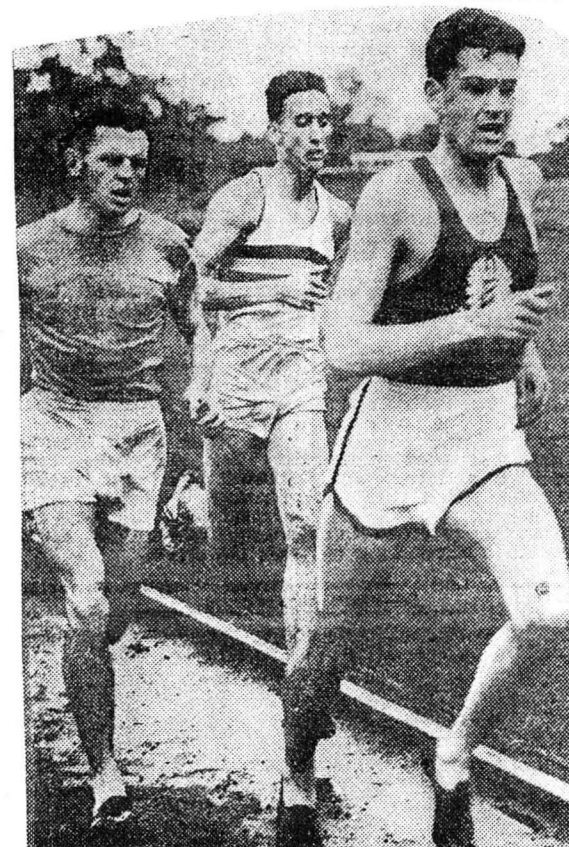


TOP British gold medal chance for the Olympic Games, middle-distance runner Gordon Pirie sheltered from the rain by an air hostess when he arrived at Essendon from Britain yesterday.

## PIRIE PUTS HIS FEET UP



Resting in Melbourne with track shoes by his bed was Olympic Gold Medal hope Gordon Pirie. He flew to Australia but his Olympic sprinter bride Shirley Hampton sails there later this month.



Gordon Pirie (centre) splashes through the mud at Victoria, with Australian middle-distance prospects Merv Lincoln (left) and Ron Clarke, while training for the 5,000 and 10,000 metres.



Gordon Pirie and Frank Sando, long distance runners in the Olympic Games, are seen aboard an NSU "Prima" scooting through the Olympic village near Melbourne.



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 1956.

## GORDON PIRIE BEATEN

Gordon Pirie, Britain's Olympic runner, was easily beaten by Australian four-minute miler Jim Bailey in a slow invitation mile in Sydney yesterday. Bailey won in 4min 11.8sec, neither runner attempting to make a race of it, after a 63sec first lap. The competitors had to contend with a strong cross-wind.

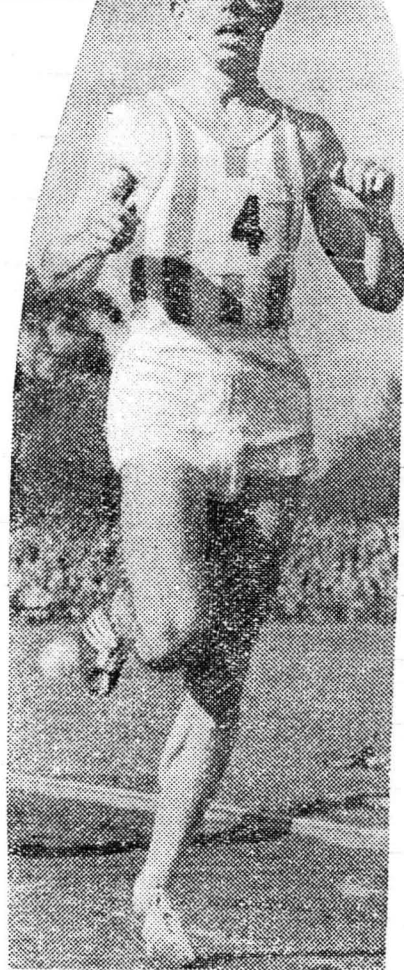
## PIRIE IS BEATEN BY BAILEY

SYDNEY, Saturday.—Gordon Pirie, Britain's Olympic runner, was easily beaten by Australian four-minute miler Jim Bailey in a slow invitation mile here today.

Bailey won in 4min. 11.8sec., neither runner attempting to make a race of it, after a 63sec. first lap.

Pirie came to Sydney because of the ban on international competition in Melbourne before the Olympic Games.

JIM BAILEY hits the tape



BENDIGO, AUSTRALIA, 1956

BENDIGO, Saturday.—Gordon Pirie gave us a shock in the pre-Olympic meeting here today. A surprise runner in a two-mile race, he was a jaded, labouring athlete over the last half-mile. In the last lap he was actually headed by Kenya's coloured Nyandika and, although Pirie won, his time of 8min. 51.2sec. was not as good as that done by Chris Brasher at Geelong on Wednesday.

Afterwards Pirie could find nothing to say except "The grass tracks take everything out of your legs."

Nyandika tried hard to hang on to Pirie but he was losing ground yard by yard after the first three-quarters of a mile.

### Tired, listless

The mile time was 4min 18sec and Pirie's schedule was not far behind equalling Ken Woods' British record of 8min. 34.8sec. But it was a tired listless Pirie who ran the last two laps.

First Nyandika caught up with him and then the American, Bill Dellinger, came roaring after him, too. Over the last 200 yards Pirie exerted himself to pass Nyandika, but Pirie was fading again at the finish.

People of this small town, where they used to mine gold, turned out in good numbers for their greatest athletics meeting ever. It had been a rush job, and the grass track was not in good condition, but the weather was mild and a pleasant change from the Melbourne deluges of the last two days.



MELBOURNE. — Gordon Pirie a rallié jeudi le village olympique où il a rejoint ses camarades anglais. Il s'entraîne, mais il pleut et il fait froid... C'est pourquoi le Britannique a enfilé deux survêtements dont celui de l'équipe d'U.R.S.S. qu'il a échangé contre le sien récemment à Londres, à l'occasion du match manque Grande-Bretagne-U.R.S.S., le tout sous un manteau de pluie.

## Pirie training drive sets Village arguing

From HARRY CARPENTER: Melbourne, Friday  
GORDON PIRIE'S gamble is the talk of Olympic Village. He is outstripping conventional training methods in his attempt to beat Russia's Vladimir Kuts in the 10,000 metre next Friday. British athletes, watching wide-eyed his torrid running, tip him to take the 5,000 metres as well.

As usual, Pirie is the centre of controversy, and this is his training schedule, carried out religiously twice a day, that has made even Emil Zatopek sit up and take notice.

In approximately 1hr. 15min. Pirie covers nearly ten miles with staccato bursts of fast running and laps of easy jogging.

Little Frank Sando, from Kent, who shares a room with Pirie and will line up with him when the gun goes for 10,000 metres, winced as he told me: "Gordon's training is hard I just can't keep up with him."

The punishment Pirie is inflicting on himself is called "interval training." Coaches advise against it for distances up to 5,000 metres. Only one other man in the world has attempted to add it to the longer distance. That is Hungary's Sandor Isha, who, unhappily, will not be competing at the Olympics.

It's an ironic thought to the man of athletics, who explains new limits to which the human body can be driven in races, saying here that Pirie is wrong.

Zatopek advocates a quick, slow, quick-slow style of training without ever pulling up. He keeps this up for 15 miles.

He thinks Kuts will beat Pirie. But his wife, Dana, disagrees. This shows you how they are arguing over our Gordon.

### Gordon says . . .

You can't get away from the fact that the Zatopek method won him three gold medals at Helsinki. But Pirie says: "Vlad was good enough four years ago, means nothing at Melbourne."

This Pirie-Kuts duel has even one so fascinated that no other runner in the 10,000 is ever mentioned.

Pirie is still entering the detail of every training stint in his little black book, which he has kept since 1953. But in many ways he seems to me a character.

He lay in bed and cracked jokes. He described how he and the rest of the Russians were out training all day, and said: "They're doing too much." This from the man who has been the greatest fanatic of training ever known to British athletics.





# OLYMPIC GAMES MELBOURNE 1956

10,000 METRES



**SETTING THE TRAP,** Kuts pounds out ahead of surprised Pirie in series of killing bursts, drains Briton's strength and sets him up for the *coup de grace* on the 20th lap.



**SPRINGING THE TRAP,** Kuts slows down, moves to outside lane forcing the reluctant Pirie to take over the lead. Kuts then charged out ahead of demoralized rival.



**BREAKING THE TAPE** in Olympic record time of 28 min., 45.6 sec., Kuts finishes 55 yards ahead of nearest rival. Pirie, worn down by Kuts's strategy, finished eighth.

unfathomable absorbed by him for the rest of his life.

Pirie can never be the same again.

Vladimir Kuts, the relentless Russian, not only ran Britain's long-distance prima donna into the ground, he tore apart Pirie's psychological fabric, and left it strewn in the harsh, red rust of the cinder track.

The crying pity of it all, purely from the British point of view, is that next week Pirie is needed in the 5,000 metres, where we have—or rather, had—an excellent chance of placing one, two, three in the final.

## No respite

If Pirie were a boxer, he would be earnestly advised to seek several weeks' recuperation after such a hiding. As it is, he must run again on Monday in the heats.

The British selectors' insistence that he attempt both the long-distance track classics is now seen to be a gross error of judgment.

Pirie did not bend slowly under pressure. He cracked and crumpled.

For 20 grinding laps he hung over the stocky, blond figure in front like some long, pale wraith. I counted six blinding spurts from Kuts: each time Pirie went with him, being dragged to breaking point.

The pace was scorching. An exhausted Burmese collapsed at the side of the track wrenching the shoes from his blistered brown feet.

## Scorching pace

Turex, the American, had stopped running when Kuts and Pirie lapped him 12th time round. Kuts knuckled the sweat out of his eyes and pounded on.

From time to time he rolled wide on the bends, motioning Pirie with a wave of the hand to come past.

Not until the 20th lap did Pirie accept—to have the bitterly galling experience of seeing Kuts flash past him effortlessly.

A lap and a half later came Pirie's crack-up. His head suddenly swayed, the giant stride faltered and broke to a feeble trot. And there was Kuts sprinting away 10, 20, 50 yards ahead . . . and you knew

instantly that Pirie would never finish in the first three.

For a moment you wondered whether he would finish at all, as the lagging second group of runners passed him, one by one, in the remaining pitiful four laps.

First, Kovacs, of Hungary . . . then Lawrence, of Australia . . . Krzyszkowiak, of Poland . . . and plucky Ken Norris, who ran magnificently into fifth place.

Kuts belted to the tape, one arm raised as if he were bearing the Olympic torch. Nearly a lap behind, Pirie limped in, run out of seventh place in the dying seconds by Power, of Australia.

## Shoes off

Pirie tore off his shoes, hurled one angrily away—then walked up to Kuts to shake hands.

Derek Ibbotson, Pirie's colleague in the 5,000, loped over from the crowd to pat Pirie consolingly on the shoulder.

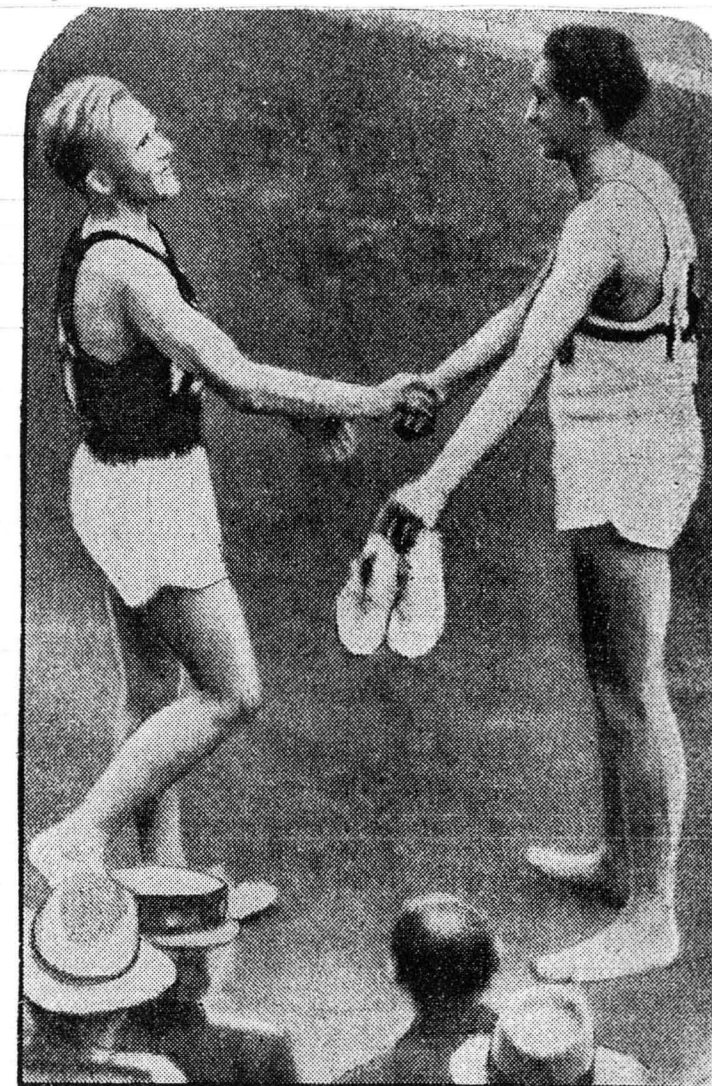
Kuts's time of 28min. 45.6sec. beat Emil Zatopek's Olympic record by 31.4sec., but missed his own world best by 15.2sec. Kovacs and Lawrence also clipped Zatopek's record.

Pirie's words to me afterwards were: "I don't think I could ever beat Kuts over 10,000 metres. He ran the legs off me."

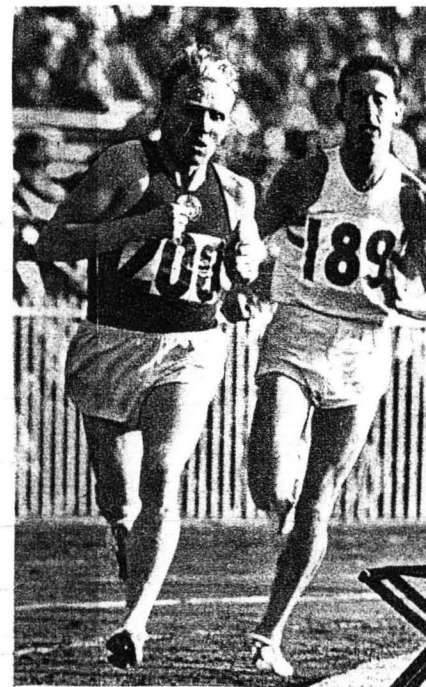
"In the 16th lap he started to go slowly and then produced some tremendous sprints. I think I could have finished second if I had ignored them. As it was, I had a job to finish. Those last four laps were like a marathon."

## Trodden on

Kuts, unquestionably the greatest long-distance runner in the world since Zatopek, complained mildly that Pirie had trodden on his heels several times. He thought he might have broken his world record if the track had been faster, and said he could easily have produced several more laps at speed if required.

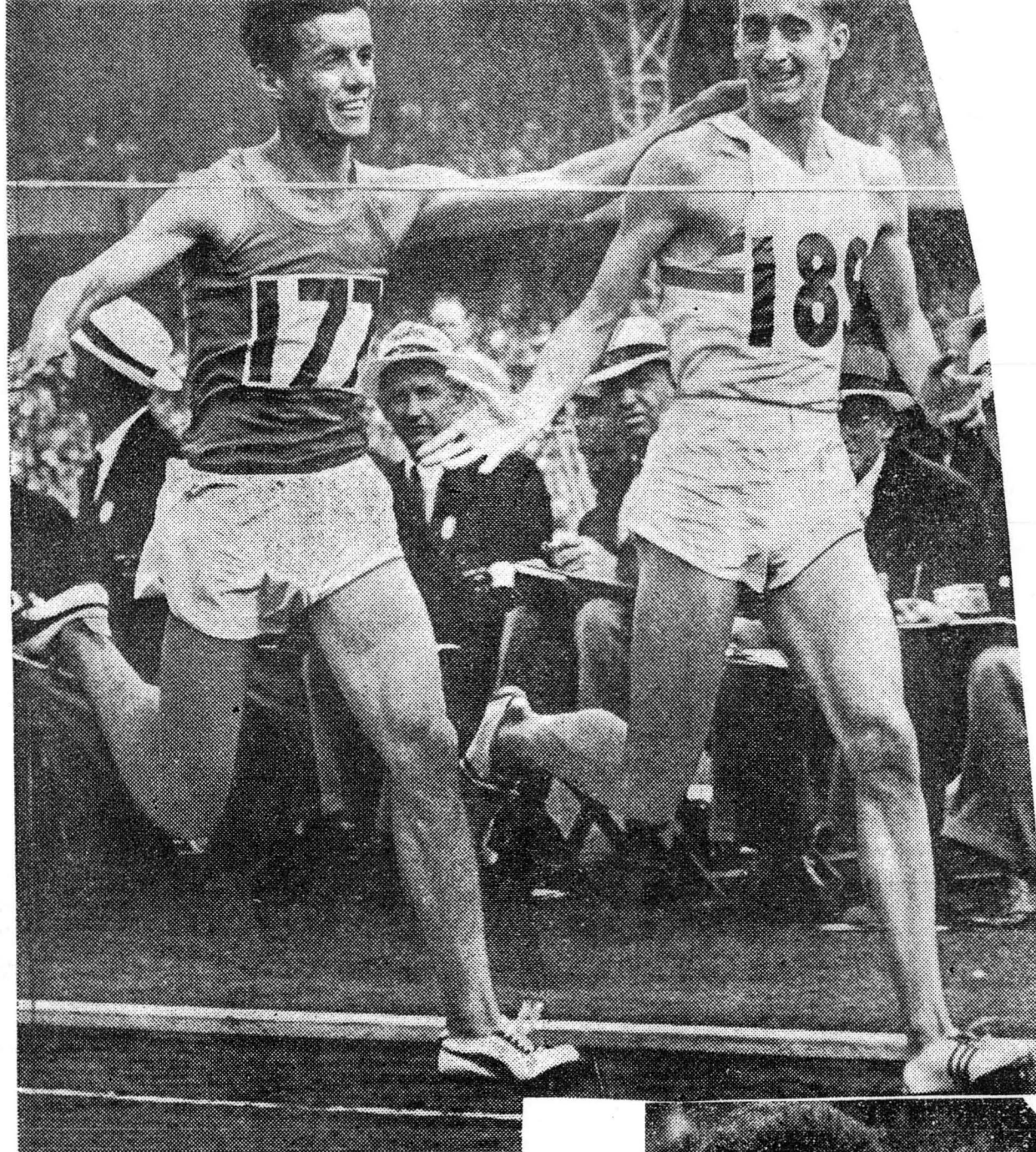


Gordon Pirie has done this before. The handshake of a loser for a victor. Can nothing beat this man Kuc? The Russian beams. Gordon can still smile.



Here is the 10,000 metres. "For 20 grinding laps Pirie hung over the stocky blond figure in front like some long, pale wraith."





↑ **CONGRATULATIONS:** Gordon Pirie (right) and Velisa Mugosa (Jugoslavia), whom Pirie just beat in the 5000 metres first heat, both extend the hand of "Olympic" friendship as they reach the tape.



## Olympic Games - MELBOURNE 1956 5,000 METRES

**T**HERE was no doubt in the Olympic 5,000 metres this afternoon as to who was the master, just as there was no doubt in the 10,000 on Friday.

Kuts, the tough, fair haired, irrepressible Russian sailor, ran his three British rivals into the ground and bounded home alone fresh and exuberant 90 yards ahead of the first of them.

A mile from home Chris Chataway, Derek Ibbotson and Gordon Pirie were at Kuts's heels, running together like the Finns of old, 50 yards ahead of the rest of the world. It was a fine sight to British eyes even if Kuts looked ominously unflagging.

His laps, around 66sec, had so far been fairly level. Now he spurred and suddenly the race was over.

Surprisingly, the most fancied of the other three, Chataway, who had only recently moved up to second place, cracked most completely, dropping back swiftly as Pirie did on Friday.

### FINAL EFFORT Inevitable Result

Pirie and Ibbotson, who had been second and third for most of the race, passed him and for a lap strove to close a 15-yard gap. Kuts merely unleashed another spurt and they had to accept the inevitable.

It is a measure of this remarkable man's ability that two and a half laps from home in an Olympic final the last doubt as to who would win had been removed.

He went on remorselessly with a rolling shrug of his shoulders, broke the tape after a last lap of 62sec and once again jogged round his lap of triumph to a thunderous ovation.

The Australians love a great runner as they love a great horse and this one has a particularly cheerful, friendly personality. As someone said, he has something to be cheerful about.

Pirie found a turn of foot in the straight which took him into second place in front of Ibbotson. Chataway, all the life gone from him, finished 11th.

### 4 MIN 25-SEC MILE "Slow Track"

Kuts had led after the first 100 yards, had reached the mile in 4min 25sec and two miles in 8min 43sec. He did not have to beat Pirie's world record, though on what he afterwards referred to as a slow track he was 21sec inside Zatopek's Olympic record. Such are the standards of distance running nowadays.

Pirie was 18sec outside his world record and obviously would have been nearer if he had not run in the 10,000 metres on Friday.

But as Kuts has run at Melbourne it needed a superman to beat him. Ibbotson ran his fastest 5,000 metres by 3sec. Though easing near the end.

The completeness of Chataway's collapse was explained afterwards by the news that he had been seized by stomach cramp. It was indeed the most unsatisfactory part of the race that he should not have been able to fight out a finish with his old enemy.

There was considerable confidence among those who have been training with him, though it may have been asking a lot of him to repeat his famous victory of two years ago at the White City.

He was then at the peak of his career, Kuts was newly arrived in the top class, with immense scope for improvement. The time then was 13min 51.8sec. Now it was 13sec faster. Kuts has made his improvement.



Above: Moment of hope. Pirie and Ibbotson track Kuts in the 5,000 metres.



**KUTS** crosses the line in the 5000 metres. Behind, at the turn into the straight, is Ibbotson, with Pirie just about to pass him to



1956

MELBOURNE

## Easy for Pirie in 1500 metres

GORDON PIRIE, world record holder for the 5000 metres, did not give his opponents a "look-in" at any stage of the Invitation 1500 metres event at Olympic Park on Saturday.

He went to a lead of 20 yards over Ron Clarke and Derek Fife (Yalourn), in the second lap and this order was not changed for the remainder of the race.

In the final furlong, Clarke made an attempt to bridge the gap, but Pirie, still running confidently, had too much in reserve.

Clarke was happy, however. He considers that running against Pirie is great experience and wants to have as many races as possible.

Rain an hour before the scheduled 2.30 p.m. start nearly caused the meeting to be postponed, but the ground recovered well.

GORDON PIRIE'S elder brother Peter, 27, has married in secret. His bride at ancient Heston Church yesterday was 23-years-old Mary Benge.

They have been friends for more than two years. Miss Benge has been regularly to White City to watch Peter and Gordon run when they were both members of South London Harriers.

"We don't know where they've gone for their honeymoon" father Alec Pirie, also a runner, told me. "The only thing Mary would say was 'We're going to China.'"

Miss Benge, whose home is at Hounslow, met Peter while working in the same branch of Lloyd's Bank at Knightsbridge. Both left their jobs on Saturday.

They are emigrating on April 8 to Canada. He has had two or three offers of jobs in Canada. He and Gordon went there for a "running holiday" in 1955.



Gordon? No, his elder brother Peter

## Flags spoil record bid

GORDON PIRIE, British Olympic runner, beat the Australian two miles record with a time of 8 min. 44.6 sec. at an international athletics meeting at Prahran oval yesterday.

He was disallowed the record, however, because the flags were incorrectly placed around the track.

FRANKSTON PARK

British Olympic distance star Gordon Pirie easily won the three miles race, in which Clarke did not compete, but highlight of this race was the good performance of Geoff Fleming (Coburg), in coming second.



Gordon Pirie wraca do formy. W Adelaide (Australia) wygrał bieg na 1500 m w dobrym czasie 3:45.6.



BRITISH distance runner Gordon Pirie using foot-weights at Findlays gymnasium yesterday. He is receiving advice from Australian professional tennis star Frank Sedgman. Pirie will leave Australia on January 3 for New Zealand where he intends to settle. He is one of the few leading British track athletes who uses weights in training.

## Pirie The Settler



NEW LAND and a new life for Gordon Pirie and his athlete wife, former Shirley Hampton, in this first picture of their arrival in Wellington. The Pories stayed with friends in Sydney after competing in the Olympic Games and now Gordon's hope is that New Zealand towns will adopt a national scheme to provide running tracks for the nation's youth.

IT now seems almost certain that Gordon Pirie will be seen on our running tracks again this summer.

This news reaches me from 1954 AAA three-miles champion Freddie Green, who is in Auckland, New Zealand, on business.

## Kuts again?

GREEN visited Pirie the other day at his new home in Palmerston North. And Pirie told him of his plans for a short tour of Europe with his wife.

This raises the exciting prospect of Pirie trying to win back the AAA six miles title which he lost to Ken Norris last season.

Also the possibility of a return match with his Olympic conqueror, Vladimir Kuts, in the Great Britain-Russia international at White City on August 24.

## Pirie Athlete Of The Year

Gordon Pirie (South London H) now living in New Zealand, has been awarded the Jackson Memorial Cup by the Amateur Athletic Association as the outstanding athlete of the year.

As the award is given to athletes born in the United Kingdom Chris Brasher, Britain's only track Gold Medal winner at the Melbourne Olympic Games, was not considered. He was born in British Guiana.

Last year Pirie broke world records for 3,000 and 5,000 metres, and gained the silver medal at the 5,000 metres in the Olympic Games. He will visit London in June.

WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND 1957

BUT in voicing his views, Pirie does so quietly and with an obvious intent to convince you by logic and by the not inconsiderable practical application he has given them. Incidentally, he pronounces his name in the old Scots manner, and not Pie-ree or Pee-ree, as many Wellingtonians are so fond of terming a street of that name in the capital.

## BICYCLE BUILT FOR TWO

Tall (well over six feet) and gangling, he nevertheless didn't take long to learn to pilot a motor scooter round the capital, with his wife on the rear seat. Shirley Pirie (nee Hampton) is a very nice girl and, between the two of them, some athletic centre in New Zealand is going to be lucky.

Shirley isn't a world record-holder like her 26-year-old hubby, but on her English times, it would take someone in Joy Crotty's class to beat her over a sprint, and she is a very useful all-round performer as well.

The Pories are having a good look round New Zealand before they settle down, which seems a pretty good idea to us.

"We want to find a place where we feel at home," says Gordon, "and then we'll try and get a job there. Naturally if we get any offers, we are going to look pretty closely at them, wherever they come from."

Shirley is a clerical worker, and Gordon gave up banking to accept a job as a paint salesman in England, before they decided that New Zealand might be a nice sort of place to settle in.





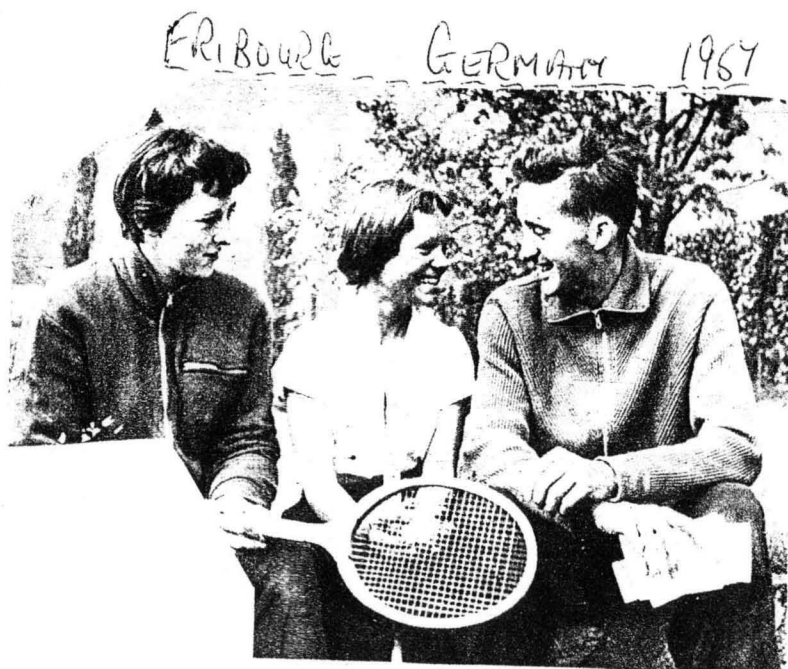


THOSE feet were certainly hot. Merv. Lincoln took off his running spikes to relax after winning the mile race

### The Pirie service

MOTORISTS ordering petrol at a garage in Auckland, New Zealand, blinked twice when served at top speed by a tall, loose-limbed attendant wearing a track suit.

Could it be Gordon Pirie? It was. The famous British distance runner has been filling in with odd jobs while awaiting his return to England this month with his wife, former international runner Shirley Hampton.

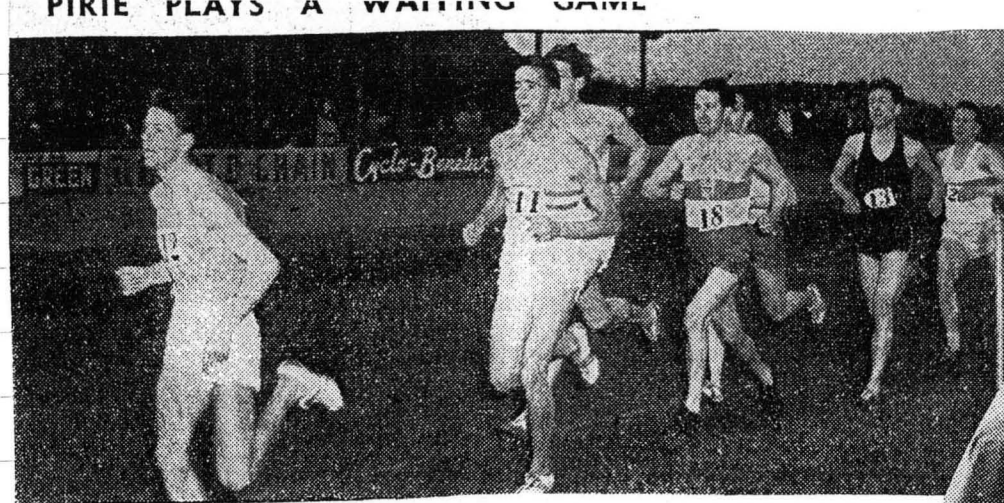


Włodzisławowiec angielski Gordon Pirie ze swoją żoną przyjaźnielskiej pogawędce z 13-letnią Giszłą Gerschler — Waldemara Gerschlera. Państwo Pirie, mieszkający spędzili święta Wielkanocne u rodziny Gerschlerów.

DUNEDIN NEW ZEALAND 1957

Merv Lincoln, in his first appearance in New Zealand recently, won over the mile in 4:01.8, easily beating his main local rival, and Gord Pirie, who finished a long way back third.

The race was run at Dunedin. It was Lincoln's second fastest time. His best is 4:00.6 behind John Landy in the 1956 Victorian State championships.



Gordon Pirie, lying second to Gerry North (12), Blackpool and Fylde A.C., in the first lap of the two-mile race at Harris Stadium, Fallowfield, Manchester, which he won in 9min. 0.4sec. Behind Pirie is Leslie Cooper (Manchester and District Lads' Club Harriers), Ronnie Carroll (18), Manchester A.C.; Joe Salt (13), Rochdale Harriers, and Peter Thompson (20), Manchester A.C.

### Pirie victory

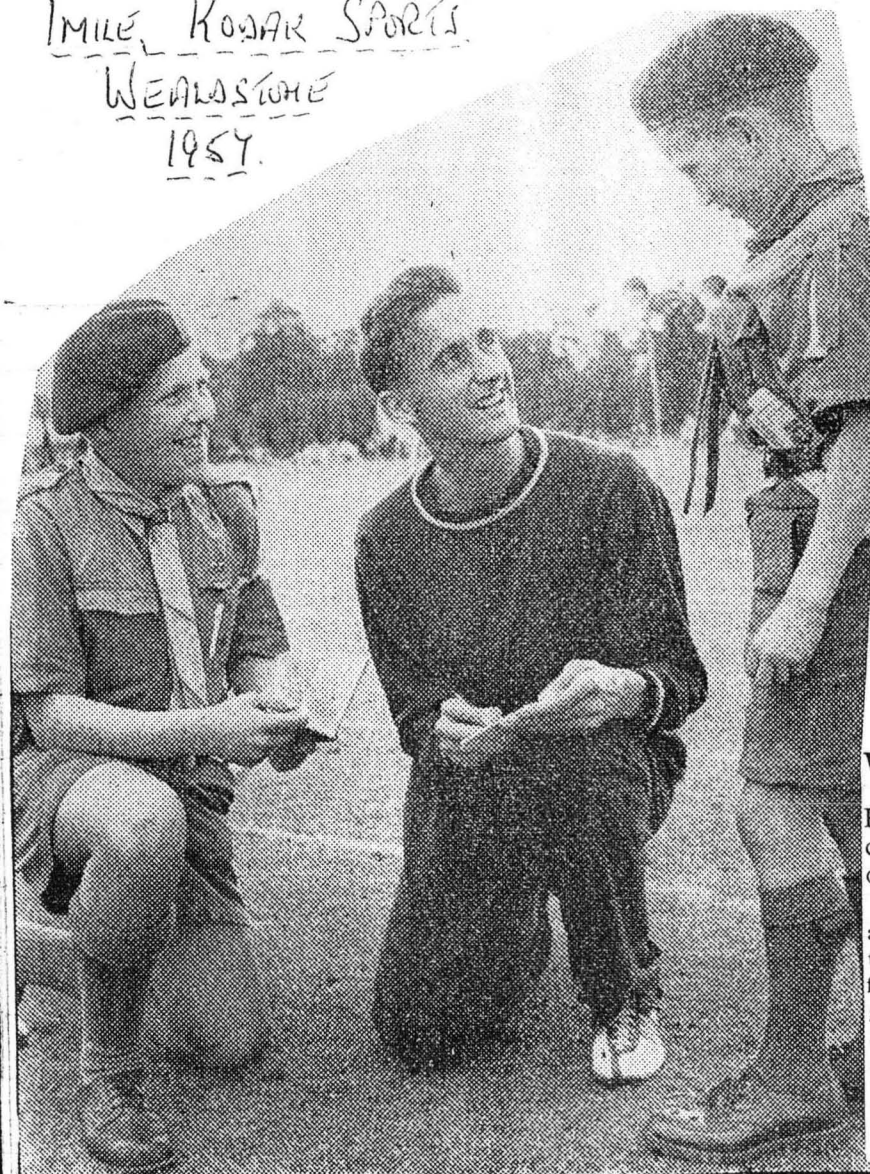
GORDON PIRIE, making his first appearance in England since the Olympics, had an easy victory in an invitation two-mile race at Fallowfield, Manchester, last night.

Pirie, who beat Brian Hall (Manchester District Lads' Club) by 30 yards, clocked 9min. 0.4sec.



Gordon Pirie gets a helping hand from his wife Shirley as he limbers up at Fallowfield, Manchester. He runs his first race since his return from New Zealand at this track on Tuesday in fulfilment of a promise he made to Reg Harris. He will take part in the two-miles event

1 MILE KODAK SPORTS  
WEALDSSTONE  
1957



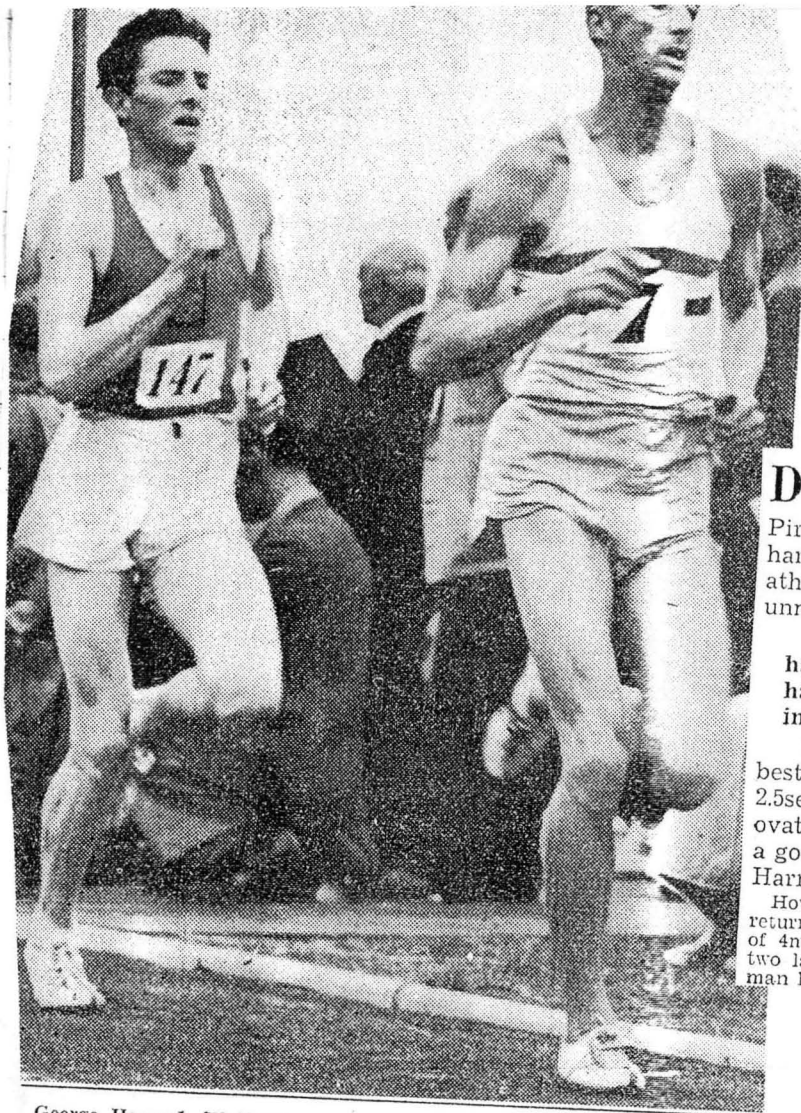
## Deluge fails to spoil Kodak sports

### NO PACE-MAKER FOR PIRIE IN INVITATION MILE

WORLD record holder Gordon Pirie disappointed crowds hoping for an outstanding performance at the Kodak sports at Harrow-view on Saturday, when he clocked 4 minutes 18.6 seconds in a mile race that could only be described as mediocre.

He lacked a real pace-maker and kept with the field until the final 220 yards, when he fought off his best challenger, gallant C. E. French, of Shaftesbury Harriers, to win by about five yards. French's time was 4 mins. 20.4 secs., with A. Collins, also of Shaftesbury Harriers, third in 4 mins. 21.8 secs.





George Howard, Watford's promising young athlete, as he runs in close on Gordon Pirie. Later, Pirie pulled away to win by nearly 7sec.

1 mile RACE  
WATFORD  
1957



"I suppose he can run on any track he chooses!"

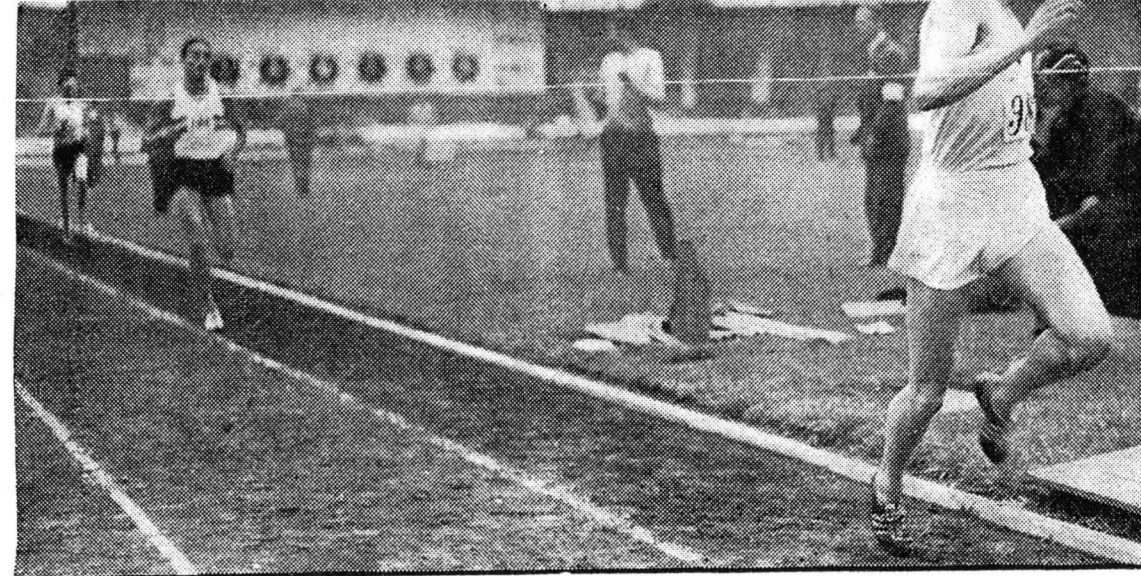
**D**ISREGARDING the implied threat of an "inquiry" if he failed to put in an appearance at the White City, Gordon Pirie ran in the mile at Woodside on Monday. The high-handed attitude which seems to have been taken by some athletics officials left Britain's most controversial runner unmoved.

Pirie arrived at the Woodside track at 1.30 p.m.—half-an-hour before the scheduled start of the meeting—had a car-seat nap, and then turned out to win the mile in 4min. 15.8sec.

It was not a record-shattering effort, but it did lower the best ground time set up by Brian Hewson two years ago by 2.5sec. And Pirie got a warm ovation as he breasted the tape a good 40yds. ahead of Watford Harriers' George Howard.

Keith Dearing, who produced a strong finishing burst to clock 4min. 23sec.

Howard, however, ran well to return his best time for the distance of 4min. 22.5 sec., and for the first two laps kept close to Pirie. Third man home was another local runner,



By George Harley

**D**EREK IBBOTSON, fastest miler in the world now John Landy has retired, set up a new personal record for hustling yesterday.

He travelled by train from Huddersfield to London, then dashed off to St. Helier Hospital (Surrey) to see his wife Madeleine and four-days-old daughter, Christine.

He took a taxi from the hospital to the White City Stadium and changed into his running kit on the way.

After a short warming-up spell, he beat Gordon Pirie in a two-mile race in 8m. 46.6s., best time in this country since Pirie's 8m. 42.5s. last July—and THAT was the fastest in the world in 1956.

He had intended to rush off to Yorkshire on the 6.15 p.m. train, but couldn't make it because the race was delayed 20 minutes.

So Pirie drove him back to the hospital again.

Between winning the

## Then beaten Pirie helps him out

race and leaving the stadium, Ibbotson had been interviewed by Jack Crump, British team manager, about his "double-date" in Dublin and Darlington next Monday and had asked for his prize to be changed!

### The Prize

The two miles was the highlight of the Air Ministry sports, and first prize was an electric razor.

"I've already got one," said Ibbotson. "May I have a tennis racket instead? Mine's getting a bit ribby."

The irrepressible Yorkshireman will know today whether he must run in Dublin—against Olympic champion Ron Delany and Brian Hewson—or at Darlington on Monday.

Organisers of both meet-

ings have claimed him but Mr. Crump hopes to produce a "satisfactory solution" after further communications with Dublin and Darlington.

Mr. Billy Morton, the Dublin promoter, suggested yesterday that the Darlington meeting should be put back one day... and guaranteed that, in return for this co-operation, Delany would run against Ibbotson there.

Pirie, who has been running in minor races to get fit, was well satisfied with his time of 8m. 47.8s. in finishing seven yards behind Ibbotson, who ran the last quarter in 58.6s.

Pirie's protege, Laurie Reed, was third in 8m. 50.2s.—an improvement of fourteen seconds on his previous best.

"I just hadn't the confidence to attempt to take the lead when I had the chance," said Reed.

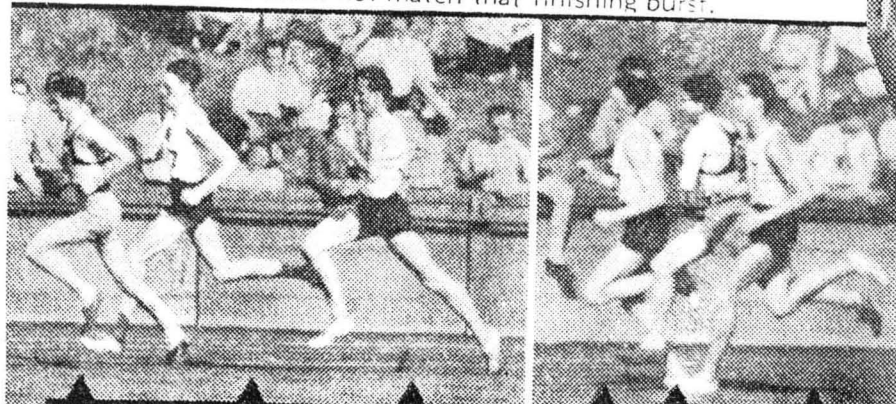
"And I had no hope of matching Ibbotson's final spurt."

● Ibbotson turns to look at Pirie—seven yards behind—as he wins the two miles at the White City yesterday.

KIMMARA TROPHY 3 mile RACE at CHISWICK 1957

The new Pirie they are calling **Laurie Reed**, 21-year-old South London Harrier. These pictures show why. See how Reed masters Gordon Pirie and Ken Norris to win the three-mile race at Chiswick. Norris trails as Reed and Pirie speed away. Then Pirie is left behind. Note how closely Reed's style resembles that of Pirie. But that is easily explained. Pirie "discovered" Reed and trained him the tough way. That's why Gordon was proud on Saturday—even though he lost.

Pirie-like legs, Pirie-like action, Pirie-like concentration... you see them all as Reed crosses the line. Pirie, (in the rear) could not match that finishing burst.



1 1/2 miles IMITATION RACE  
PADDOINGTON 1957

## PIRIE BEATEN BY IBBOTSON

### BUT HIS RECORD STAYS UNBROKEN

Derek Ibbotson failed to beat the English native record for 1 1/2 miles by one fifth of a second at Paddington last night but won easily from Gordon Pirie, who set up the record of 6min. 26sec.—the world's unofficial best time—on the same track two years ago.

Ibbotson returned 6min 26.2sec. and Pirie 6min 28.6sec. Roger Dunkley (Shaftesbury Harriers) was third in 6min 28.3sec.

A very large crowd turned up to see the race, in which 12 leading runners took part.

The lead constantly changed hands, Ibbotson leading for the first 30 yards, after which he was passed by P. B. Driver.

Driver was still leading at the end of the first lap, with Pirie on his heels and Ibbotson running comfortably in fourth place.

In the second lap Driver maintained his lead but Ibbotson moved up to second place, with Pirie running on the outside back in sixth position. The time for the first half mile was 2min 10.4sec.

This same tempo continued for the next lap where the leading positions remained unchanged and the half distance was reached in 3min 16sec, well outside the schedule required to beat the record.

At the mile, reached in 4min 23.4sec, A. J. Redrup had progressed to the head of the field, with Ibbotson and Pirie in second and third places close behind. Driver had faded badly and was clearly out of the race.

### IBBOTSON IN FRONT Pirie Goes With Him

When the bell sounded, with the time 5min 29sec., Ibbotson had gone to the front. He was followed by Alan Gordon, former Oxford Blue, Pirie and Dunkley who has just returned from the successful Oxford and Cambridge tour of the United States.

Ibbotson increased the pace during the last lap and only Pirie could stay





The position of the leading runners at the start of the fifth and final lap in the "Stadium Mile." J. R. Cameron (Britain) is just ahead of Ronnie Delany, with Brian Hewson in third place in front of Gordon Pirie. It was at this point that Delany made the burst which carried him on to victory.



Delany breasting the tape to win the "Stadium Mile." In second place and partly hidden by Delany is Brian Hewson, with Gordon Pirie.



Billy Morton, Hon. Secretary, Clonliffe Harriers  
Gordon Pirie, Jack Crump (British team manager)

And what an enthralling and exciting one it was. The big three, Delany, Hewson and Gordon Pirie, settled down from the start, content to let J. R. Cameron of Scotland and J. E. Davies of Wales alternate in the lead. Delany tucked himself in behind Hewson, with Pirie trailing the Irishman, all three running in the most relaxed fashion, and that was the pattern until the straight was reached entering the last of the five laps.

#### DELANY IN FRONT

Then, to a resounding cheer, Delany surged to the front. "Jumping" Hewson, Cameron and Davies as though they were standing still. Cameron and Davies were done with, but Hewson and Pirie went in pursuit of the now flying Irishman and it was Pirie who got in the first challenge.

He drew abreast with Delany at the second last bend, but could not sustain the effort against a renewed spurt by the Irish runner, who quickly opened up a gap of about ten yards.

Pirie disposed of the real danger then loomed up. Hewson accelerated in to Irish eyes quite alarming fashion at the start of the fifty yards finishing straight, and with only twenty yards to the tape he was only two yards behind.

But Delany found reserves to withstand this fierce challenge. Lunged forward again, and held his two yards advantage to breast the tape in a repeat of his Melbourne gesture of triumph.

Delany had made no secret of the fact that among his ambitions was to reverse the placings with Hewson, who twice beat him on the same track last summer. Nor does the young Irishman make any secret of the fact that he runs to win his races. He is not obsessed with figures, but takes them as they come. Last night they came slow, by modern standards, but the main objective was achieved.

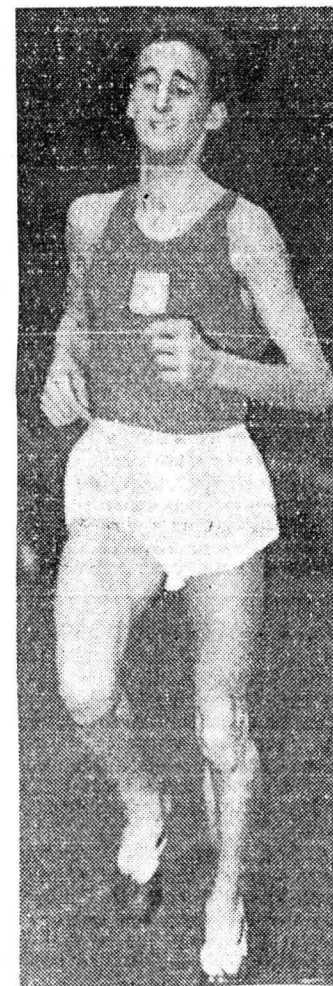
When told later that Derek Ibbotson had won his mile race at Darlington in 4 minutes 5 seconds, Delany's only comment was: "Obviously it was a faster race."

#### SIGN OF STRESS

I have mentioned the relaxed running of the three principals. Even under the first pressure of Pirie's threat, Delany remained relaxed and apparently confident, and the only sign of stress came when he became aware of Hewson's perfectly timed stroke. That he answered it so decisively made this a triumph of heart as well as tactics.

Hewson stated afterwards that he was hampered by Pirie in his final lap, but this was not apparent

## 3 miles Race, Dublin, 1957.



#### THRILLING THREE MILES

It is no exaggeration to say that Pirie almost stole Delany's thunder in crowd-acclaim with his running in the three miles; and almost had that thunder stolen from him by the magnificent effort of Jimmy Douglas of Arondale, who started on the scratch mark with Pirie and another English runner, K. Gilligan.

As Pirie threaded his way through the field, Douglas stuck to him like a leech, and as late as the last of the fifteen laps actually stole the lead from his illustrious rival.

Pirie then unleashed the finish that has won him so many great races, but Douglas was not to be shaken off and finished only twelve yards behind one of the greatest three milers the world has known. It was the Irishman's finest performance and richly merited the applause which greeted it.



# Gordon Pirie makes a great comeback

3,000 METRES INVITATION RACE  
CROYDON 1954.

GORDON PIRIE, lanky, record-breaking former Croydon bank clerk from Coulsdon, made his return to Croydon athletics on Wednesday evening.

And what a comeback it was. Pirie, self-exiled to New Zealand, over here as a trainee with a New Zealand firm, ran three races in the annual Croydon Old Boys v. London Old Boys match at Croydon Sports Arena.

HE WON the half mile for Croydon in 1 min. 57 sec.

HE WON the mile for Croydon in 4 min. 17 sec.

HE WAS SECOND in the invitation 3,000 metres to Derek Ibbotson, his Yorkshire-born South London Harriers club mate, clocking a creditable 8 min. 18.4 sec., only a second behind his rather fresher fellow

British Olympic representative, who set a new ground record of 8 min. 17.4 sec.

Pirie's effort is a complete answer to those who did decry his unreliability as a crowd-puller. Not only did he turn up before his home crowd—he ran three events.

Pirie covered some 4,160 yards in his evening's running, at a total time of 14 min. 32.4 sec.—surely some kind of record in itself.



In the early hours of Wednesday morning Police constable Stan Eldon was tramping his beat in the rain at Windsor... but twelve hours later he still found time to set a pace for crack distance athletes Pirie (57), Ibbotson (58), Darchambaud (behind Ibbotson) and Frank Sando (1) in the thrill-packed 3,000 metres event at the "Times" meeting at the Croydon arena on Wednesday evening.

1 MILE WALKER ON THAMES  
1954.

## IT'S REALLY PUFF-PUFF PIRIE NOW

THERE was nothing in the running of Gordon Pirie at Walton-on-Thames yesterday to suggest he is making any progress in his attempt to regain erstwhile glory.

In a mile race run at slowish pace, Gordon, after leading a few yards from the winning post, was run out of it by John Thorpe, a 25-year-old insurance clerk from St. Albans. Both clocked 4 min. 14 sec.

Thorpe, who was second to Gordon in a 1½-mile world record last year, made the pace from the half-distance. Gordon challenged in the straight but had nothing like his old fire.

Pirie said about his condition and prospects in the A.A.A. championships in two weeks' time: "I am afraid I shall just not be fit enough."

STAN TOMLIN

1 MILE RACE  
CROYDON O-B v LONDON O-B  
1954.

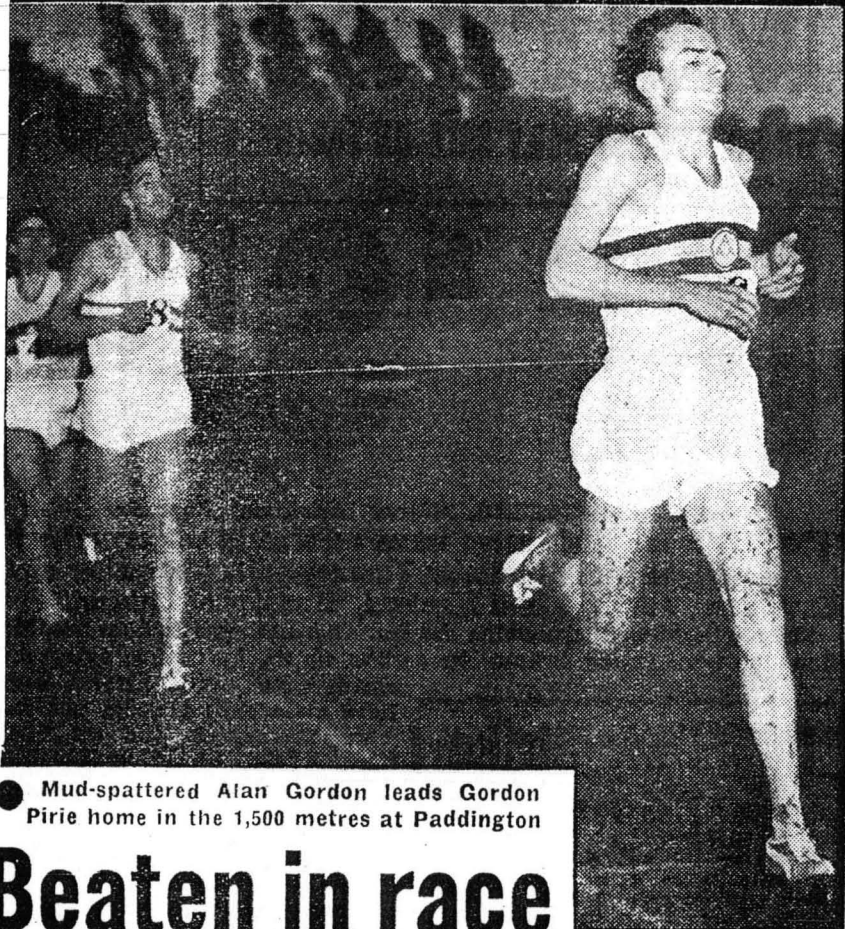


Galloping Gordon Pirie (above) races

QUEEN PARK HARRIERS  
PADDINGTON

1,500 METRES RACE  
1954.

# PIRIE FLOPS!



● Mud-spattered Alan Gordon leads Gordon Pirie home in the 1,500 metres at Paddington

## Beaten in race he wanted to win

GORDON PIRIE faces a crisis. Despite the rain... despite the heavy track, he knew he should have done better than finishing second to Alan Gordon (Achilles) in a 1,500 metres invitation race at Paddington last night.

This was the race Pirie desperately wanted to win. This was the race in which he would prove he was on his way back to the top.

### Easy

But Pirie flopped again. He was easily beaten by Alan Gordon, the Oxford blue, and took 3m. 53.8s.—four-tenths of a second behind the winner.

Immediately after the race Pirie turned to me and said: "Could I have done

By TONY HORSTEAD

better? Of course I could, I wanted to win."

But Pirie does not appear to have found his form yet, and he has two big races immediately in front of him.

This week-end he runs for London in the two miles against New York.

Two weeks later, he will be in Sweden for the "revenge" race against the man who beat him in the Olympic 5,000 and 10,000 metres at Melbourne—Russia's Vladimir Kuts.

### No Chance

Pirie never really looked like winning last night once the bell had sounded. He went strongly into the lead at the start. Roger Dunkley and Gordon came out of the main bunch to follow his shoulders.

Dunkley increased the pace on the third lap and

took the lead, closely followed by Tony Barratt.

At the bell Pirie dropped back and with perfect timing Gordon strode past on the outside to take the lead.

Dunkley fell away and Barratt was also passed as Pirie made his final challenging effort round the last bend.

He got to within two feet of Gordon.

Then the Achilles man strode unmercifully away and Pirie realised he had no chance.



# LONDON v NEW YORK 2 MILES at WHITE CITY 1954

## LONDON MEETS NEW YORK IN WHITE CITY'S LITTLE OLYMPIAD

It looks as if Gordon Pirie, the once invincible monarch of middle distance running, and fame have fallen out for keeps.

Pirie, who hasn't puff-puffed his way into the news since the Olympic Games, was well walloped by George Knight over two miles at White City last night and in the end—when he so often used to be the killer—he was killed.

This was Pirie's first international race since Kuts defeated him twice in Melbourne.

Pirie and Knight, the AAA six-mile champion, took turns to take the lead.

The mile was reached in 4min. 22.4sec. and the bell at 7min. 50sec. with Pirie a couple of yards in front.

### The moment

For Pirie this was the moment of decision... the moment when he must call upon every muscle, every nerve to reproduce his once familiar murderous finish.

But when he pressed the button that used to make him work wonders—nothing happened.

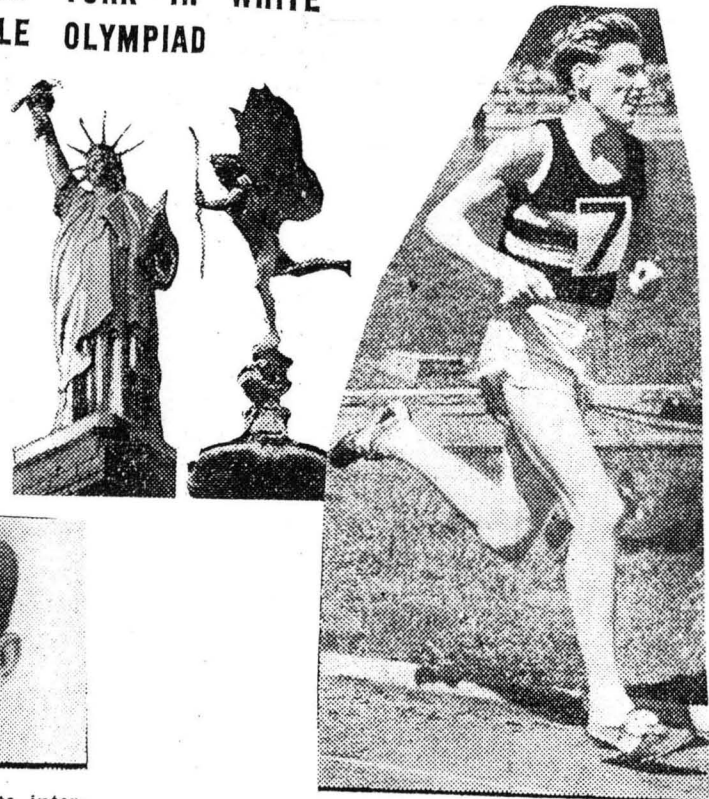
Coming into the straight Pirie tried to find the magic spark which once set the athletic world alight.

But Knight had knocked the daylight out of him and made it look as if the old champion was running up and down an escalator.

Knight's time was 8min.



Gordon Pirie returns to international racing in the two miles event this evening.



G. KNIGHT, of Essex Beagles, is Pirie's team mate in to-night's two miles.

### Their Worry

I received anxious inquiries from the New York two-milers, George King and Lou Stenglitz. They seemed a little depressed when I told them Gordon Pirie was competing in the two miles against them.

As a consolation I added that Pirie had not yet reached his world form. "Yet seems the operative word," snapped back King. "I suppose Pirie has reserved himself for the week-end match."



# 5,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE at WHITE CITY, 1954

AROUND the red ribbon of the White City he came, cheeks blowing the old familiar puff puff. Head rolling from side to side, long legs striving for the last ounce of power. This was Gordon Pirie, once the wonder boy of British athletics. This was Gordon Pirie yesterday, running his first big race since his return from New Zealand.

This was a stouter, cheerier Pirie trying again over the 5,000 metres distance for which he is still world record-holder.

When everyone was saying "This is it. Pirie can't do it any more," he spurted 50 yards from home to beat a red-shirted Czech, Mirko Grieff, with the young Maida Vale lad, Kevin Gilligan, in third place.

But I am sorry to have to tell you that this wasn't the real Pirie. Not the old Pirie we used to know. This was a Pirie running as though he had left something of himself "down under."

His time, 14 min. 5.6 sec., against his world record 13 min. 36.8 sec., shows how much of the old Pirie has disappeared in 13 months.

Cheerfully he said afterwards: "I'm still satisfied I haven't yet run into top form."

Fine, Gordon, but the race you say you've really come back for—a return crack at the Russian Kuts, who beat you twice in the Olympics—is due in Sweden in a fortnight's time.

And, frankly, I think you'll have to do a lot of hard labour in 14 days to stand a chance there.



**PUFF PUFF PIRIE** Gordon Pirie (40) chugs on to win the 5,000 metres invitation race at the White City—but in 28.8 sec. outside his world best.

## INTER BANKS 1 MILE RACE MOTSPUR PARK, 1954

**GORDON PIRIE** won the 5,000 metres in 14min. 5.6 secs at the White City on Saturday.

Gordon Pirie then hustled across London to win the Inter-Banks mile in 4min. 24.2secs. at Motspur Park.

And afterwards Gordon Pirie gave his critics a piece of the Pirie mind. Thus:—

"That's my last day's racing in Britain for a while. I'm going to Sweden on Friday to stay with friends for a couple of months. Perhaps there I will get away from all this 'Pirie is finished' talk."

"I'll show them I'm not finished. In about a month I expect to be breaking world records again."



"Don't be so surprised. I know I can do it. It is not just wishful thinking. It is all down in my book."

"I have kept a record of my training times for the last four years. Those times tell me I will be smashing world records again within a month."

What records? "Oh, three miles, perhaps the mile. Yes, Ibbotson's time can





## Pirie first

MOTALA, Sweden, Friday.—Gordon Pirie won a 3,000 metres race in 8min. 19.1sec. here tonight. His world record is 7min. 52.8 sec.

Pirie was not extended in winning from the Swedes Jan Ahlberg and Lasse Helander.—

## PIRIE RECORD

YSTAAD (Sweden), Sunday.—Gordon Pirie won an international 1,500-metre race here today in a new track record time of 3 min. 52.1 sec. Less than an hour earlier he had finished second to Leslie Locke, the Scottish amateur international soccer player, in an 800 metres event. Locke was clocked at 1 min. 53.8 sec. and Pirie at 1 min. 54.2 sec. Pirie's 1,500 metres time lopped 2.7 sec. off the previous best



## PIRIE'S WIFE BREAKS A TENDON

By Roy Moor

GORDON PIRIE'S wife, Shirley, snapped the Achilles tendon of her left leg running in Stockholm last night.

It happened 20 yards after the start of a 200 metres race. She left the track on a stretcher and is to have an operation.

Gordon told me from Stockholm: "This does not necessarily mean the end of Shirley's running career. She has had the injury bound and will have the operation in Malmo."

## WAERN BEATS PIRIE IN 3min 59.7sec

### MILE RACE IN SWEDEN

MALMOE, Tuesday.—Dan Waern, of Sweden, beat four minutes for the mile here tonight, clocking 3min 59.7sec.

Waern won the event from Gordon Pirie, of Britain, who clocked 4min 5.7sec, with Tor Hammersland, of Norway, third in 4min 5.9sec.

It was the second time in three weeks that Waern had beaten the four-minute barrier. On July 29, in Stockholm, he clocked 3min 59.3sec.



JORDON PIRIE har inte motsvarat förväntningarna ännu så länge åtminstone. För autoqrafiägarna är han likväl ett förnämt viltbråd.

## PIRIE WINS

BRITAIN'S Gordon Pirie won the 5,000 metres in 14m. 18s. at an international athletics meeting at Malmoe (Sweden) last night.

In the 880 yards, Derek Johnson was beaten into second place by Roger Moens, who clocked 1m. 51.2s.



GORDON PIRIE var mycket artig och omtänksam efter 5,000 m-loppet. Han stannade kvar och tackade alla konkurrenterna för god kamp. Till Janne Ahlberg sade han: "Fortsätt som du börjat och du är snart på 14 min. blankt." Här tackar han loppets siste man, turebergaren Lennart Johansson.

## GORDON PIRIE IS 5,000 M WINNER

Gordon Pirie won a 5,000 metres race in 14min. 14.4sec. in an international athletics meeting in Stockholm last night. Second was Thyge Thøgersen (Denmark) in 14min. 15.2sec., and third Tor Thøgersen (Norway) in 14min. 17sec.

5,000 m: 1) G. Pirie, England, 14.14.4; 2) T. Thøgersen, Danmark, 14.15.2; 3) T. Thøgersen, Norge, 14.17.0; 4) J. Ahlberg, Tureberg, 14.28.0; 5) L. Andersson, Tureberg, 15.12.8; 6) R. Carlsson, Bellevue, 15.27.0.





BRITAIN v RUSSIA at WHITE CITY 1957

## Pirie hurt, may miss 5,000 metres

By HARRY CARPENTER

GORDON PIRIE has a badly damaged ankle and is a doubtful starter for tonight's Great Britain v. Russia 5,000 metres race at the White City, London.

He will decide whether he runs after a fitness test this morning.

This is the race in which he hoped to make an international come-back, running alongside Derek Ibbotson, to prove that I was wrong when I wrote, after his double defeat by Vladimir Kuts at Melbourne: "Pirie will never be the same again."

A Hyde Park pothole was the cause of Pirie's injury.

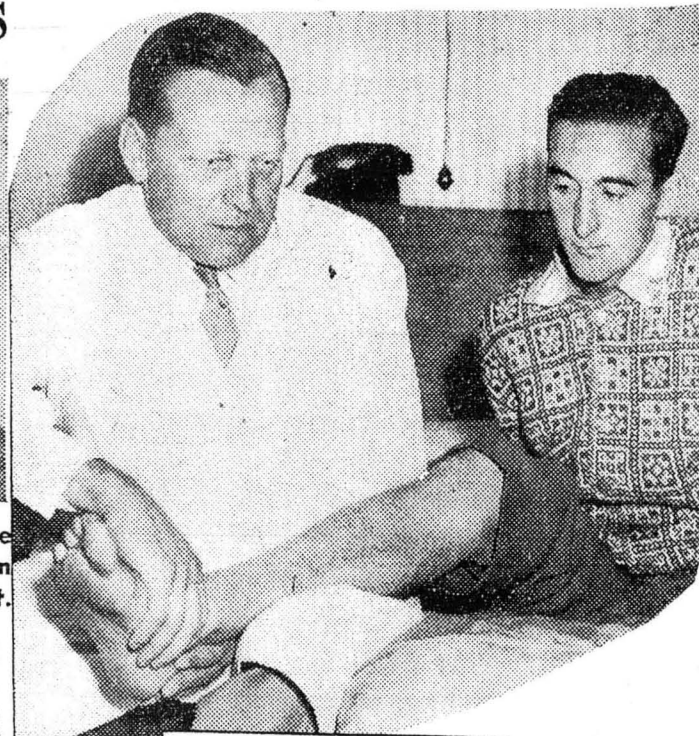
During a training spin yesterday morning he caught his right foot in it and wrenched his ankle.

He limped back to the Bayswater hotel where the Russian athletes are quartered and had the ankle rubbed by a Soviet masseur.

At 5 p.m. he joined the Russians in a training spell at Hurlingham. His wife, former sprinter Shirley Hampton, went there with him.



The strain on the face of Pirie when training last night.



### Russians Help Pirie To Run For Britain

Thanks to Mr. R. Martin, masseur to the Russian athletes, Gordon Pirie will run for Britain over 5,000 metres at White City to-night. After an hour on the massage table, being treated by Mr. Martin, Pirie tested the ankle he twisted

GORDON PIRIE may not be able to run for Britain at the White City, London, tonight. But his Russian opponents are fighting to get him fit.

Gordon arrived back from Bergen, Norway, on Wednesday evening, and yesterday morning went out training in Hyde Park with the Russians.



He caught his right ankle in a pothole and strained it.

He was immediately taken back to his hotel by the Russian officials and was treated by the Russian trainer, Elmer Martin, from Estonia.

### Wife Hurt

His wife, the former Shirley Hampton, broke an Achilles tendon during their Scandinavian tour and had to have an operation to knit it. Her left leg is in plaster.

But she went down to Hurlingham last evening to watch Gordon testing out his ankle.

As she anxiously watched her husband trotting gently round the track with some of the Russians she told me:

"This seems to be a bad spell for the Piries. It is difficult to say whether Gordon's ankle will stand up. He told me that as he was running in Hyde Park he suddenly thought 'This ground is rough. I must watch out'."

"Next moment his foot had gone into a hole and he fell."

### Massaged

"The Russians could not have been kinder. Their trainer spent well over an hour massaging the ankle."



Petr Bolotnikov (left) and Ivan Chernjavsky, both in the 5,000 metres, meet Derek Ibbotson and Gordon Pirie.



IN a wonderful cascade of British track triumph in the athletics match against the Russians at London's White City last night, nothing was more popular than the international come-back of Gordon Pirie.

Pounding Pirie, always a bit of a problem boy, was a problem only for his rivals in the 5,000 metres event, which he won from Derek Ibbotson in 13min. 58.6sec.

The British pair trampled the Russians into the ground. They refused to be intimidated by Petr Bolotnikov's sprint start which quickly took him 20 yards in front.

After three laps, Pirie and Ibbotson had cut this down to

IT'S the old Gordon, as Pirie shoots past Derek Ibbotson on the last bend to win the 5,000 metres at the White City.

next-to-nothing, and for the rest of the race the British pair were content to stay close to the Russian and await their opportunity.

At the bell Bolotnikov was struggling to keep his lead, but Ibbotson went past him and Pirie made his effort round the last bend.

It was the old Gordon. He sprinted past the field, and, running strongly, finished an easy first.

Ibbotson looked over his shoulder to make sure that he was going to get second place.

The 40,000 crowd rose to Pirie, and they cheered again as he dashed off the track to embrace

his wife, Shirley, the former sprinter, who is on crutches with her left foot in plaster as the result of a running accident in Sweden.

Gordon told me: "I was running easily all through because I knew that both Derek and I had sufficient sprinting strength to finish off the Russians whenever it was necessary."

"It is great to be back in international athletics and I am delighted that I was able to pull it off."

### The 'Soviet' Tr

The two top Weekly for City match winners immed by Yakov Ambassador.

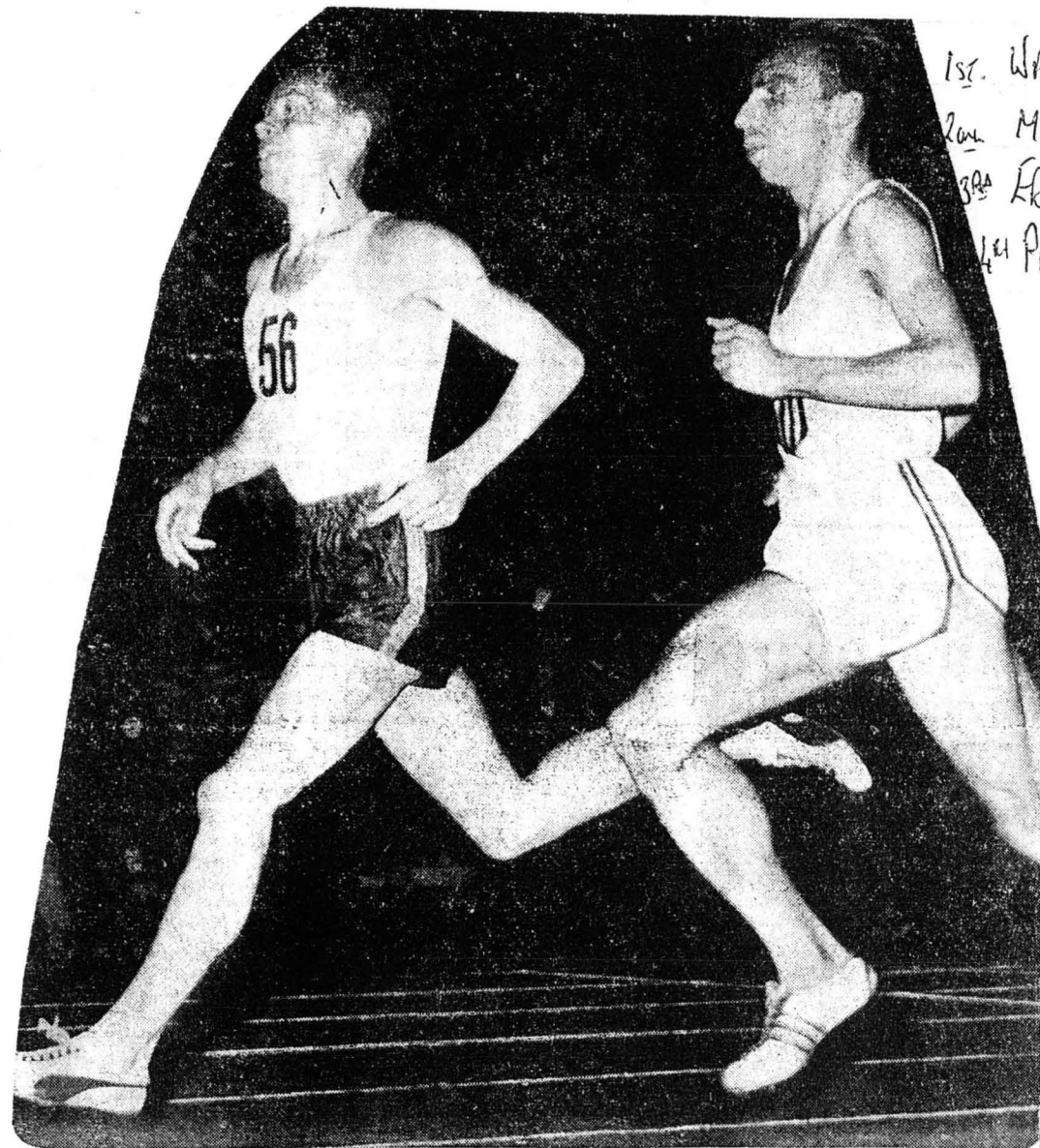
The trophies-lets, decorated -went to

GORDON his victor which h 58.6 sec.





# 1 MILE WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT MALMOE, SWEDEN 1957



DAN WAERN pressas hårt av belgaren MOENS. Här löper paret ut över upploppet Malmö.

## JACK CRUMP DEFENDS PIRIE

"SCANDALOUS stories" which have appeared in some Scandinavian newspapers accusing Gordon Pirie of running for money, were hotly denied by British team manager Jack Crump yesterday.

"It is absolute nonsense for anybody to suggest that Pirie's appearances in Europe since he returned from New Zealand have contravened any regulations," he told me.

"He has the fullest backing of the British Amateur Athletic Board and runs only with their permission."

What then, was the trouble behind Pirie's refusal to run in Gothenburg last Monday? Said manager Crump:—

"It had been arranged that he should run in the mile, but the promoters wanted to

switch him to 5,000 metres and he turned the proposal down flatly. He was quite right.

"He has permission to run in a 1,500 metres or one mile event in Malmo next Wednesday, but that permission will be withdrawn if the Swedes do not treat him properly.

"PIRIE IS AN AMATEUR ATHLETE AND NOT A PIECE OF MERCHANDISE."

Pirie was chosen yesterday to run for Britain in the 5,000 metres event against Poland in Warsaw two days after the Malmo race. He plans to take the night train ferry from Malmo and join up with the rest of the British team next Thursday in Copenhagen, where the party will touch down en route from London to Poland.

1st. WAERN. SWEDEN. 3min 58.5sec  
2nd. MOENS. BELGIUM. 3min 59.9sec  
3rd. KRISTOFF. SWEDEN. 4min 0.4sec  
4th PIRIE. BRITAIN. 4min 0.9sec

## PIRIE WINS 5,000-4th IN MILE

MALMO. (Sweden). Wednesday

GORDON PIRIE ran a mile in 4min. 0.9sec., his fastest ever here tonight. Shortly afterwards he turned out to win the 5,000 metres at the same meeting.

His 5,000 metres time was 14min. 13sec., only 15sec. slower than when he won over the distance for Britain against Russia in London less than a fortnight ago.

Despite the brilliance of Pirie's mile run it was good enough to give him only fourth place.

The winner, Dan Waern, of Sweden, recorded his fourth sub-four minute mile in seven weeks with 3min. 58.5sec., the world's fourth fastest time for the distance. Only Derek Ibbotson (twice) and John Landy, the Australian, have been faster.

### Moens, too

In finishing second to Waern, Roger Moens became the first Belgian to break the four-minute barrier with 3min. 58.5sec. Seventeen runners have now beaten four minutes 30 times.

Ingvar Ericsson, Sweden's No. 2 in the race, finished third in 4min. 0.4sec., also a personal best. Pirie led the field on the third lap.

He leaves for Warsaw today to join the British team (who fly from London this morning) for the two-day match against Poland starting there tomorrow evening.

Second in the 5,000 metres was Alan Lawrence (Australia), 15sec. behind Pirie, third Walter Konrad (Germany), and fourth Cambridge University man Roger Dunkley.

5,000 METRES BRITAIN v POLAND. at WARSAW, 1957.

WARSAW, Friday.

## WHAT a cracking good afternoon of athletics we had in the Poland-Great Britain match today.

With all the ups and downs of the giant racer at a fair Great Britain were eventually left trailing by 45 points to 61 in the men's events and leading 32-19 in the women's competition.

Who were our heroes? Well, first of all let me, as an off-time critic of Gordon Pirie, congratulate him on the way he won the 5,000 metres.

The time—it was nothing—14m. 0.8s. is 24s. outside the world record which is, of course, held by Pirie himself.

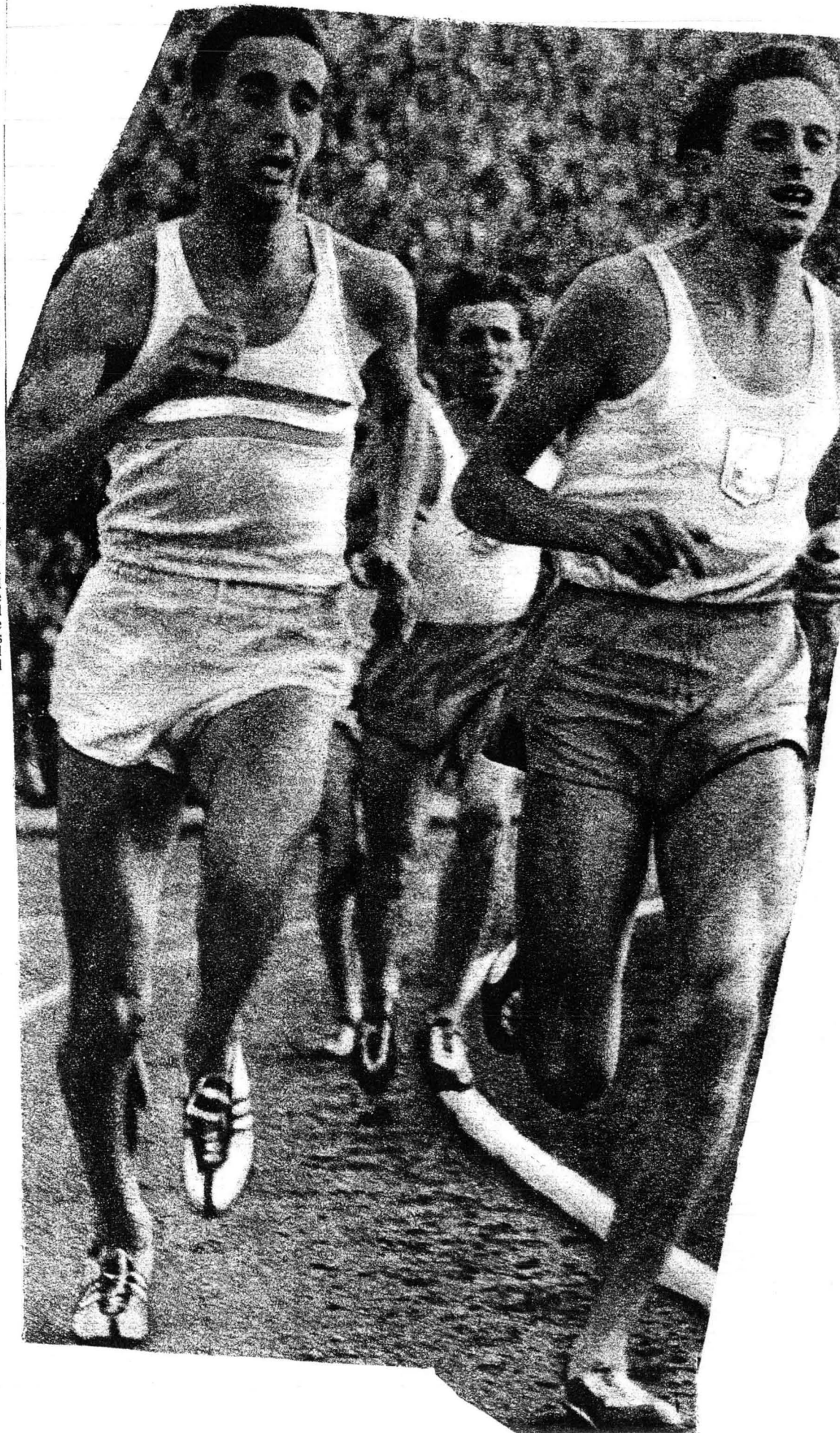
And Pirie won, easing up, by a good twelve yards from the Poles Krzyszkowiak and Zimny, who returned the same time of 14m. 2.2s., so that there was no real competition at the end.

But it was the sheer unselfishness of Pirie's running which gained my respect where a faster time—of which he was clearly capable—would have brought the uproarious applause of the crowd.

### SEARING SPEED

Because, after leading for most of the first eight laps, Pirie deliberately disciplined himself to lie second to Zimny—instead of killing off all the opposition—in order that Laurie Reed should still have a chance of at least splitting the Poles.

Only when he realised that his protege just could not make it today did Pirie turn on the searing speed which scythes off the opposition at the knees while Reed steamed in still running bravely but a good twenty yards in the rear.





DKINAM U GERMANY in HANOVER

1957

10,000 METRES

It was left to Gordon Pirie to sweeten the taste of defeat for the British troops in the crowd.

### Stole Show

Britain's cause was beyond saving when he turned out for the 10,000 metres—twenty-four hours after his easy victory in the 5,000 metres.

George Knight won the race, repeating his Warsaw triumph in 29m. 16.2s., but Pirie stole the show by cheekily inflicting individual doses of humiliation on the two Germans, Walter Konrad and Ludwig Muller.

After being 200 yards in

front at one stage, Pirie kidded the crowd—and the German runners—into believing he was struggling to keep going over the last six laps.

Knight was beyond catching, but the crowd went crazy as Muller drew fifty, thirty, ten yards nearer the "faltering" Pirie, and then passed him.

### Flashed Ahead

Gordon at once flashed ahead with a lightning sprint.

The crowd screamed again when, with two laps to go Konrad came pounding up to his shoulder—by permission of Pirie, who at once accelerated to finish 280 yards behind Knight and twenty-five ahead of Konrad.



## Pirie wins a majestic '5,000' for Britain

From PETER CONNELL  
HANOVER, Saturday night.

THE photo-finish will decide whether Britain wins her first athletics match on German soil tomorrow. Four times in six races the camera acted as the final judge today in this tense international watched by 50,000 spectators at the Nieder Sathsen Stadium, which was built from war rubble.

Germany mustered a nine-point lead (57½ to 48½) in this day of amazing finishes which opened with three men recording the same time in the 400 metres hurdles.

This was won for Britain by the Liverpool scripture master, Tom Farrell.

Thousands of British Service men cheered madly when Gordon Pirie saluted majestically to victory in the 5,000 metres, with the grace one expects from a world record-holder.

But attention slipped away from Pirie before he reached the tape as Eldon and Laufer fought out a bitter duel over the final lap to avoid last place.

### Still a chance

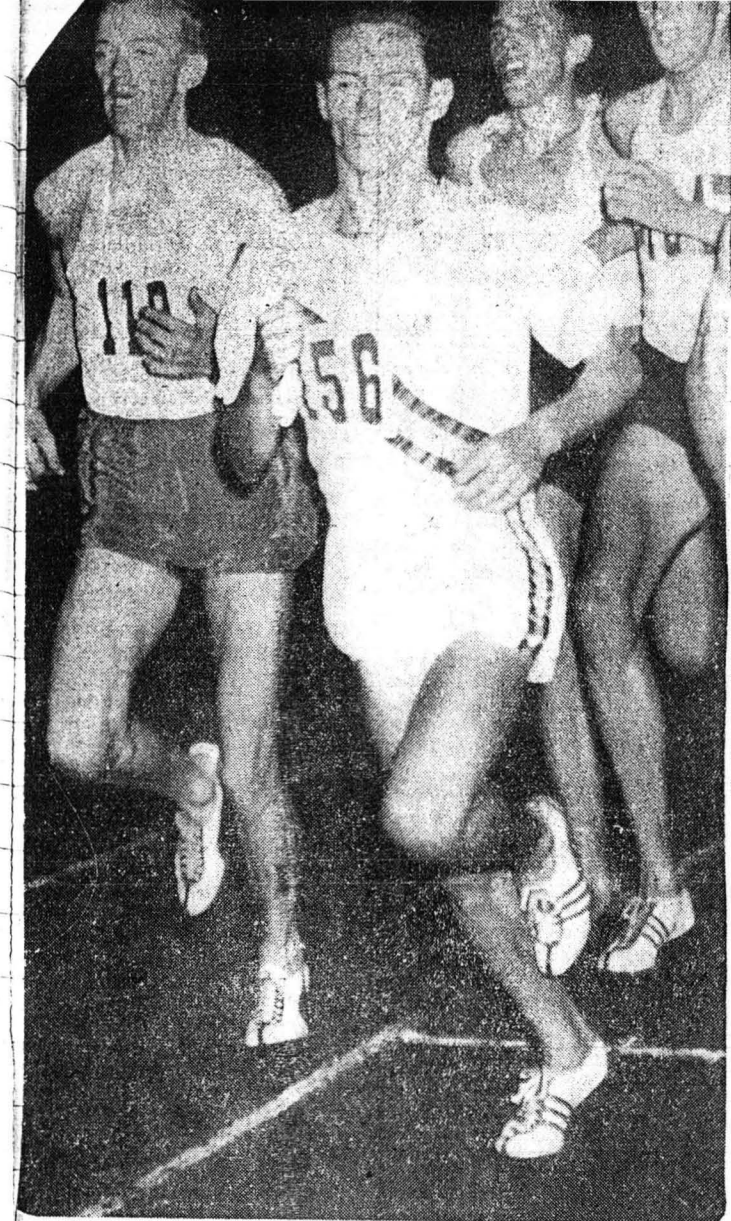
The decision went to the German, but it looked as if Eldon had at least drawn level in his last two strides. Pirie was concerned only with victory, which accounts for his slow time, because he runs the 10,000 metres tomorrow.

Gordon Pirie (No. 29) pounds after Ludwig Muller. They stayed like this until the bell, then Pirie pounced past for a 14min. 20.2sec. 5,000 metres win.

5,000 METRES



● George Knight, 10,000 metres winner, with Gordon Pirie behind.



Den lille australiensiska travaren ALAN LAWRENCE leder ett 5,000-meterslopp före fr. v. Kalle Lundh, IFK Mora, Cepanski, Polen, och Gordon Pirie.

being lured into competing abroad by excessive expenses allowances. "My racing in Scandinavia has cost me more than £200, and I consider the money well spent. I enjoy my athletics and I enjoy travel—especially when the two pleasures are combined. "And if anybody thinks we make a packet out of our prizes they should take a look at my collection. Some of the 'pieces of pottery' we get just are not worth looking at."

## Pirie walks out on a farce

By ROY MOOR

WITH one lap to go and 5,000 people slow-handclapping and jeering, Gordon Pirie dropped out of the international 1,500 metres race at Stockholm last night. His action caused an outburst of laughter.

"I could not stand the farce of it all," Pirie told me. "It was a crawl. I was hoping for a fast time but nobody would pep up the pace. As things got worse I walked out when Dan Waern of Sweden was leading through the three-quarter mark in around 3min. 15sec. I put on my track suit to wait for the 5,000 metres event instead."

This, Pirie won as he liked from Allan Lawrence (Australia) in 14min. 23sec. And as if "to show 'em," he ran the first 1,500 metres in 4min. 4sec.—around 10 seconds faster than Waern's winning 1,500 time.

## FINN IMPEDED ME SAYS ANGRY PIRIE

TURKU, Finland, Tuesday. GORDON PIRIE stormed off the track complaining he had been impeded, after he was beaten into second place by Finland's Olavi Vuorisalo in a two-mile race here today.

Pirie said that the Finn crossed his path in the final straight and prevented him from winning.

He crossed the finishing line a fifth of a second behind the Finn, whose time was 8min. 38.8sec., 5.4sec. outside the world record set by Sandor Iharos.

Derek Ibbotson was third in 8min. 41.2sec., and John Disley fourth.

After the race, Vuorisalo said that if he had impeded Pirie, it was unintentional.

Pirie maintained that Vuorisalo ran out from the inside lane at the last bend and broke the tape in lane three position.

Pirie claimed that he would have won but for the incident. But he did not make an official protest.

2 Miles International Race  
Turku, Finland.  
1957





ENGLAND v POLAND. White City 1954.

5,000 METRES

# Last-man Pirie booed —Knight gives England match



Knight hits the tape, England have won.

By CLIFFORD WEBB

**GORDON PIRIE booed!** That was the staggering climax to the athletic season at the White City, London, last night, as Pirie finished last in the 5,000 metres, trotting to the tape nearly a lap behind winner George Knight.

Pirie, who has been running in various Scandinavian countries for most of the summer, tailed off badly before the two miles mark was reached.

He dropped farther behind with each stride and was only jog-trotting for the last couple of laps.

It was left to team-mate Knight, the Essex runner, one of the big discoveries of the season, to win the race and the match for England by 80 points to 77.

Knight, after lying second most of the way round to the Polish runner Zimny, was suddenly surprised in the last lap by a burst from the other Pole, Jerzy Chromik.

## Too strong

Chromik's sudden effort took him five yards to the front, but Knight crowded on pressure and gradually reduced the gap.

As they came round the last bend, the Essex man, running in great style, had gained a lead of at least ten yards, and neither of the Poles had sufficient speed to make a final challenge.

Pirie finished the race and the booing broke out afresh as he trotted on to the grass to congratulate the winner.

## Ibbotson hits out

**WORLD-RECORD** holder Derek Ibbotson yesterday hit back at his critics, who said of his defeat by Polish flyer Lewandowski in the international mile at Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow . . . "He's stale." . . . "Burned out." . . . "Has run himself out."

"Nonsense," says Dashing Derek—it was his second set-back in four days—"I know I've lost a bit of my edge, but it's not because I have been running too often. I maintain it's because of all the travelling I have done around the Continent to race in the last few months."

Ibbotson has taken part in nearly 60 races in the last five months—most of them against world class opposition—and reckons he could have beaten Lewandowski, who won in 4min. 7sec., but for bad luck. "I saw him go and started my burst, but I was blocked by three runners. By the time I got through it was too late."

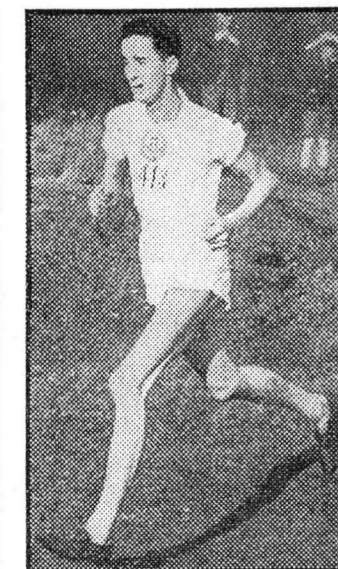
Gordon Pirie, puffing harder than ever, finished second to last. Then he let a close kept secret out of the bag. "I ran against medical orders," he said, "I've run in 14 races in the last 20 days and my doctor told me to have a rest. But I wanted to keep my promise to run here."

GLASGOW FLOODLIGHT  
SPORTS 1954  
MILE



Golfer Harry Weetman, suspended by the PGA over the Ryder Cup incident, correcting the driving stance of boxer Peter Waterman, today, while athletes Gordon Pirie, right, and Brian Shenton looked on. Weetman was opening his new professional's shop and driving range at Selsdon Park.

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON



This looks like two photographs of Gordon (Puff-Puff) Pirie, but in actual fact it is father and son. Alick Pirie (left) is the father shown running across Hamilton Park, Scotland, in 1926. That year he represented Scotland in the international cross-country race at Brussels.

This picture was given to Gordon when he ran in Glasgow last year and is now one of his father's most treasured possessions.

Mr. Pirie is wearing the full South London Harriers' kit with maroon and buff ribbon round the sleeves and down the shorts. Gordon seems to have copied his father's stride.

## KUTS BEATS PIRIE'S 5,000m. WORLD TIME

ROME, Sunday.

Vladimir Kuts, Russia's double Olympic gold medallist, broke the world 5,000 metres record here to-day with a time of 13min 35sec, 1.8sec faster than the record set by Gordon Pirie at Bergen in June, 1956.

The crowd went wild with excitement when Kuts crossed the line an easy winner and torches improvised from newspapers blazed around the Olympic stadium.

It was a magnificent solo effort by Kuts. Taking the lead from the start, he and his compatriot, Peter Bolotnikov, soon opened up a gap of about 200 yards over the other 15 competitors.

Bolotnikov fell away and Kuts was left on his own. As he lapped runner after runner the noise from the crowd was deafening. The announcer called in vain for silence to give the lap times, but all semblance of order was lost as Kuts swung easily into the home straight.

Meet the man plan—the new Pirie. The man pounded around the tracks in a relaxed routine still has his gets. But this intends to hit without becoming slave to athlete.

## A Pirie Warning To Kuts

By DOUG WILSON

**O**NCE he would look back in a to-day Gordon Pirie forward happily and no longer that almost cal young man of the relaxed Gordon has ing me about his regaining his world metres record from Vladimir Kuts.

His training starts there and there is nothing ve about it. What is di Gordon's approach to He still takes athletics but no longer is it t and end all of his life this new, almost happy approach will produce and faster Pirie.

With the exception of event there will be country racing for this South London Harrier New Year.

Then, if all goes well, to "go through the car Briefly, this means clu inter-counties, district, na perhaps international shins

With plenty of weigh and cross-country runni him. Gordon should be so when the track seas May.

Like every top-class chief targets will be th and Commonwealth C Gardiff, followed by the championships at Stoc August.

## Big Chance

The Stockholm 5,000 n give him a splendid o of recapturing the wor which Kuts clipped by 1 clocking 13min 35sec in cently.

What does Pirie say chances against 30-year- "However fast Kuts go beat him at the finish. sider I can run the race thing around 13min 20 confident Gordon.

I shall not make th again of running the 10. as well as the 5,000." Olympic silver-medallist

Such are the hopes, predictions of Gordon athlete. But what of Mr ex-bank clerk and ex-p man whose emigration Zealand a year ago las few weeks?

At present he is worki his job as a trainee with commercial bankers in Next September he plans to New Zealand and t with a branch of his pr And trust Gordon to ent He intends to mak the journey overland caravan!



## EPSOM 1958 SUCCESSFUL OUTING FOR PIRIE

### WINS QUIET RACE

By JACK CRUMP

Hopes that Gordon Pirie will be fit enough to run for Surrey in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH inter-counties cross-country championship on Saturday were substantially increased last Saturday.

Pirie, who was a guest runner in a match between Epsom and Sutton had a quiet race with Surrey colleague Langridge, who was turning out for his second-claim club Sutton.

Together with R. Simmons (Sutton) they finished at the head of the field in 40min 27sec. Sutton won by 15 points to 21.

## COULSDON 1958 PIRIE WINS SOUTH LONDON TITLE

### WEEKS-PEARSON IN FORM

By Our Athletics Correspondent

Club cross-country championships—particularly those over 10 miles—gave some of the prominent names in the sport an opportunity to regain winning form on Saturday.

D. A. G. Pirie took the South London Harriers title at Coulsdon.

South London Harriers expect to have Gordon Pirie running for them next month. They hope he will be able to help in their defence of the Surrey cross-country title and then run in the Southern and National championships.

Pirie hopes to be fit in time for the Surrey race. He has been troubled by a throat infection, but last week he took on a new role as team manager and accompanied a party of South London Harriers to Lancing College for a match against the school.

W. D. Thomas, secretary of the club, says that this switch to the officials' side of athletics is only temporary for Pirie.



SURREY — Inter-County Cross-Country Champions. L. to R: R. Roath, K. F. Caulder, D. A. G. Pirie, M. Firth, A. Towl, B. T. Barrett, W. E. Lucas (Team Manager), M. R. Maynard, S. R. Langridge, J. De'Ath.

Inter-county Cross-country

Stoke on Trent 1958



GEORGE KNIGHT (Essex) is the new inter-counties cross-country champion. He won the title over a sticky 7½-mile course at Stoke-on-Trent yesterday, clocking 40min 17sec. Brilliant as his running was, George did not rely upon this alone.

More than 100 yards behind and over 20 places down at one stage, he displayed the tactics of a veteran as he chopped his opponents down one by one to score a 40-yard victory.

Yorkshire's Alan Cocking was second, with John Anderson (Northumberland and Durham) third. Anderson took third place after a neck-and-neck finish with Hugh Foord (Sussex).

Among the field of 310 starters my sympathies went out to Eddie Kirkup (Yorkshire) and Gerry North (Lancashire). With 2½ miles to go Kirkup, the A.A.A. marathon champion, was lying third. Then he stumbled over an Alsatian dog who had run on to the course.

Kirkup fell and gashed his knee. He finished 37th. North, 21-year-old 1957 National Junior champion, led for most of the race.

Two miles from the finish he had a 40 yards lead over Knight but then North was attacked by a bad bout of stitch, and could only struggle on to finish 18th.

After the race Knight praised North for his running and said: "I'd never have caught him but for that breakdown."

### Pirie 70th

Lack of training took its toll of Gordon Pirie, who finished 70th. Ken Norris (Middlesex), the defending champion, is still not back to his best. He could only finish 12th.

Surrey caused something of a surprise by winning the team title and the "Daily Telegraph" trophy. They packed particularly

22. running in his first Southern championship, gained a fully-deserved victory over a heavy, sticky nine-mile course at Parliament Hill Fields on Saturday.

There was plenty of mud to plough through, and the stiff uphill finish thoroughly tested the fitness of the runners.

The South London pair, M. W. Firth, and P. B. Driver, with J. S. Evans of Polytechnic in close attendance, made the early pace, but at one mile, D. A. G. Pirie was in the lead for a short spell.

### ELDON MOVES UP Forges Away

Then Eldon moved up to the front, and although the national and international champion, F. Sando, and Firth were together close behind him for another mile, he forged away to open up a gap, and at half-way was over 100 yards in front.

In the early stages of the final lap Sando looked capable of catching him, but Eldon then increased his pace, and came home with a strong finish to win in 49min 50sec.

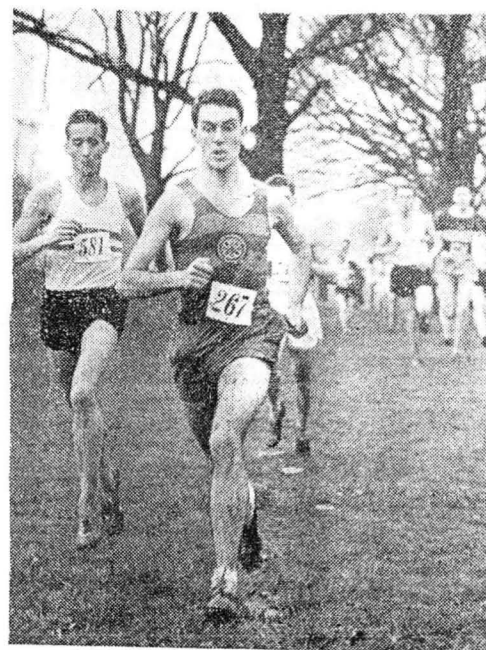
About 150 yards and exactly 32 seconds, an unusually large gap in a race of this importance, separated him from M. W. Firth, who was a trifle stronger than Sando. P. Driver on one of his better days, was a good fourth.

### NORRIS SATISFACTORY Pirie Finishes Fast

Ken Norris, improving with every race, had a satisfactory day to finish seventh, and Pirie, gradually working up to his best form, was content to finish fast filling 12th position.

The team race was close, despite South London Harriers, the holders, having three in the first dozen. Thames Valley packed five men in the first 29 positions, but South London just scraped home with 136 points to Thames Valley's 142.

## Southern Cross-Country Championships PARLIAMENT HILL 1958



Mike Maynard (Herne Hill) No. 267, just in front of Gordon Pirie (S.L.H.) No. 581, with Tony Redrup (Wycombe), Ken Caulder (Surrey A.C.) and Ken Norris (T.V.H.) close behind, at halfway in the Southern Senior C.C. Championship.

Alan Perkins ran a splendid judged race in the English Cross-Country Championship at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, on Saturday, narrowly beating the title-holder F. Sando by 5sec.

Major surprise of the day was the absence of the southern champion S. Eldon, expected by many to win, who had mistaken the time of the start.

Conditions were better than expected and although there were stretches where the ground was soggy, there was plenty of firm going.

### S. LONDON SET PACE Pirie Drops Back

Three South London Harriers, M. Firth, P. Driver and D. A. G. Pirie, set the pace at the start, but after two and a half miles Pirie dropped back and four others, A. Perkins, B. Heatley, the holder F. Sando, and the veteran F. Norris making comeback, joined Firth and Driver at the front.

Perkins led by about a yard at three miles and stayed there for another mile and a half, but the dropped behind slightly, leaving Sando, Firth and Norris to fight out the lead.

This remained the order for another two miles when Sando certainly looked to be all set to retain his individual title.

At eight and a quarter miles Firth made his effort, to go in front of Sando, but with 500 yards to go Perkins timed his effort magnificently.

### STRONG FINISH

#### Tiring Firth

He went past the leading pair and finished strongly, winning a splendidly judged race in 48min 51sec, a good time for this particular course.

A tiring Firth could not hold Sando's finishing challenge and Sando took second place 20 yards behind Perkins in 48min 56sec.

South London kept the team title rather more comfortably than had been anticipated.



### Pirie is first

Gordon Pirie, British Olympic runner, won an international cross-country race at La Hulpe, near Brussels. He covered the 5 miles, 220 yards in 27min. 29sec. and was 21 seconds ahead of Maurice van Laere (Belgium).



**THE** outstanding performance in Cambridge Harriers' road relay at Bexley on Saturday, over a course of six laps of approximately 3½ miles each, was undoubtedly that of John Morrison of the home club.

Running the second leg against strong opposition, he brought Cambridge Harriers up from seventh to third position and recorded the day's fastest time of 17 mins. 47 secs., only three seconds outside last year's best time put up by Jackie Brown (Belgrave H.).

A record number of 42 teams competed for the "Alec Spalding" Trophy, which was retained by Thames Valley Harriers, who finished just ahead of South London Harriers, with Blackheath third.

At the end of the first lap D. Pemble (Aylesford P.M.) had set up a lead of seven seconds over Haith (T.V.H.) with a time of 17 mins. 57 secs. On the second lap Herring (Blackheath) brought his team up from fifth to first place, a position that was retained on the third lap by Everard, despite strong running by Gordon Pirie, who had brought S.L.H. into second place.

T.V.H.s gained the lead on the fourth lap, however, and international steeplechaser Eddie Ellis, kept them in that position to the final change-over. Haslam, running the last lap, managed to keep Thames Valley in the lead, despite a fine run by Langridge (S.L.H.).

#### RESULTS

1 T.V.H. A, 109 mins. 13 secs.; 2 S.L.H. A, 109.24; 3 Blackheath H. A, 111.07; 4 City of Rochester A, 113.46; 5 S.L.H. B, 113.50; 6 Herne Hill H. A, 114.24; 7 Poly H. A, 114.53; 8 Queens Park, 114.55; 9 Mitcham A.C. A, 116.02; 10 Cambridge H. A, 116.17; 11 Aylesford P.M., 116.51; 12 Belgrave H., 116.53; 13 Blackheath H. B

#### PIRIE'S MISSING CAR

Gordon Pirie, the Olympic runner, was to-day still seeking his car which was stolen from Norfolk-crescent, Paddington, yesterday. His mother said: "In the car was much expensive athletics equipment and a gold wrist watch.

## CONSISTENT RUNNING WINS ROAD RELAY

### BRIGHTON RACE FOR THAMES VALLEY

By JACK CRUMP

Consistently good running by a team in which there was not a single weakness won Thames Valley Harriers the News of the World sponsored national road relay race from London to Brighton on Saturday.

At the end of a very closely fought-out first stage Belgrave Harriers through G. Flanagan held a slight lead from Herne Hill for whom I. Boyd ran well.

But Thames Valley were close behind in third place, and on the next stage J. R. Cameron took them to the front.

They temporarily lost the lead to South London after a splendid run by S. R. Langridge in the third stage only for P. R. Clark to regain it for them.

#### DERBY RUN WELL

##### Lose Lead

Derby and County, who throughout ran a great race, led at the end of stage five, but Thames Valley were up again in front soon afterwards and from this point they gradually improved their position to win in four hours 29 mins. 14 secs.—an excellent time for this 55 miles 1,060 yard course used for the first time.

South London, holders of the trophy for the past four years, had held second place just after halfway through great efforts by M. W. Firth and P. B. Driver and had hopes of going in front when D. A. G. Pirie took over.

#### PIRIE DROPS BACK

##### Not At His Best

Pirie, however, not at his best, dropped back and not only were South London beaten by Thames Valley on this stage, but Derby outran them to finish second only 2 mins. 10 secs. behind the winners.

They were, in fact, hard pressed to beat Woodford Green for third position.

A number of new stage records were created, but because of the rearrangement of the relays on this new course some of the value of these performances, excellent though they were, must be discounted.

It was, however, one of the finest races ever held on this road, and only 20 minutes separated the winners from the 20th and last club to complete the course, Manchester and District Lads Club Harriers—an unusually short margin for a race of this length.

Thames Valley, 4hr 29min 14sec. 1: Derby & County, 4-31-22; 2: South London, 4-32-28; 3: Woodford Green, 4-32-39; 4: Sheffield United, 4-34-49; 5: Herne Hill, 4-35-2; 6: Walton, 4-36-43; 7: Victoria Park (Glasgow), 4-37-44; 8: Blackheath, 4-37-50; 9: Polytechnic, 4-37-59; 10: Belgrave, 4-38-31; 11: Pembroke, 4-39-14; 12.

Big surprise of the event was the defeat of South London Harriers, who had dropped Derek Ibbotson, into third place.

"I feel it was all my fault," Gordon Pirie told me. "I am feeling terribly depressed about it. I feel that I have let the side down. I have a shocking chest cold and in consequence my time was much slower than it should have been."

Outstanding record-breaker of the race was Eddie Kirkup, of Rotherham, the A.A.A. marathon champion. He covered the Lowfield Heath-Handcross stretch (6m. 264yds.) in 29min. 40sec.—11sec. faster than the previous best.



Preparing for his bid to win a place in England's Empire Games team, Gordon Pirie trains at Croydon with his wife, the former Shirley Hampton

## Pirie and wife held by German police

**G**ORDON PIRIE, his wife, and a friend were arrested and held for over two hours by German police in Freiburg yesterday.

They were manhandled into a black maria by five policemen after Mrs. Pirie and her friend, 19-year-old Maureen Brazier, had crossed a main street in Freiburg against the traffic lights.

By phone from Freiburg last night Gordon Pirie told the News Chronicle: "I turned round from a shop window to see Shirley and Maureen disappearing into an office led by a policeman.

"I went across, but couldn't understand much of what was going on because the policeman was talking in rapid German.

"I tried to explain things, but he got hold of me and threw me out. I went back in and there was a struggle, and my arm was injured.

"Then a black maria arrived and in front of a large

crowd we were dragged into it by five policemen.

"About two and a half hours later the Germans asked for three marks from each of the girls and we were permitted to leave."

The Pories, who live at Croydon, are on a seven-day tour of Germany.





Gordon Pirie wins the Pollitt Trophy 880 yards from Paul Abraham at Brighton in 1min. 55.9sec.

**GORDON PIRIE**, currently holder of the world 3,000 metres record, demonstrated his versatility by winning first the 880yd. and then the 2m. at the Pollitt Trophy meeting organised by Brighton Athletic Club at Brighton Sports Arena, Withdean.

Pirie, who was making his first competitive appearance at Brighton, is no less a dedicated athlete than Hugh Foord, whom he beat by two yards in the two miles. But their devotion to athletics is on different planes.

Foord, the Brighton distance runner, allowed that warm glow of feeling to return when the race was over. He sat at the track-side with his wife and relaxed.

Pirie, whose training schedule is based on expert scientific advice from German coach Woldemar Gerschler, is a robot on the track. He showed little elation at win-

ning; just a brief handclasp with Foord and third man Mike Maynard, then a steady jog with two South London Harrier team-mates, and a brief stop to climb into two track suits.

#### Relaxes

Now this poker-faced technique puts the Continentals off their stride, but the public are apt to misinterpret the complete subjugation of feeling as showing-off.

Yet Pirie's ice-cold brain is not totally filled with athletics. This controversial figure relaxes away from it all with what he calls a "middle-class taste in music."

He admires the work of Prokofiev and Khatchaturian; likes ballet, and numbers among his favourites "The Tales of Hoffman" and "Swan Lake."

I doubt if any tune was running through his mind when he started on the two mile stretch with 22 others. The field included five internationals.

Mist, raw cold and rain was no

setting for a record, and Pirie decided on a tactical race making sure that Foord did not get away.

#### A break

Pirie led at the first lap with Foord at his heels, then international steeplechaser Tony Llewellyn (Walton) tried a break but was soon pulled back.

Maynard (Herne Hill) stretched the field out at lap six with a sudden spurt, and suddenly they were away—Maynard, Pirie and Foord. This was the order at the bell.

Pirie timed his effort in the back straight and raised his pace at the last bend with Foord challenging mightily. A quick look behind, and Pirie sprinted away from Foord to win in 9min. 19.6 sec. Foord was clocked at 9min. 20sec.

Foord said afterwards: "I thought he would outkick me when I saw him beat Paul Abrahams in the 880yd."

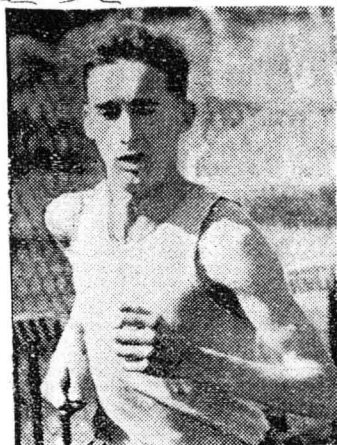
Foord has never beaten Pirie on the track, but has done the trick over cross country. A two miles defeat for Foord is a rarity. He was beaten once last year by Frank Sando, but cannot remember another setback.

#### Great tussle

Paul Abrahams broke early in the 880yd. He and Pirie were shoulder to shoulder on the final bend but as the tape neared, those spindly legs of Pirie carried him to victory in 1min. 55.9sec. The watch timed Abrahams only 0.1sec. slower.

POLLITT TROPHY SPORTS

BRIGHTON 1958



GORDON PIRIE... then a steady jog

A.A.A. v London University 1958

## First in the 2 miles —second in the mile

**GORDON PIRIE** failed gloriously to pull off an amazing double at Motspur Park, Surrey, last night.

First he won the two miles. Twenty minutes later he was beaten into second place in the mile.

And the mile was the race he had intended to run. **THE TWO MILES WASN'T!**

Pirie asked at the last minute if he could race for the A.A.A. against London University in the two miles. Astonished officials were

only too pleased to agree, but pointed out that he would have only a short breather until the mile.

But Pirie was confident—and won looking round in 8m. 51.6s.

#### Top Class

This was a top class time, considering that he had to

set the pace for a mile and a quarter.

Afterwards Pirie said: "I'm feeling very good. Now I'm ready for the mile."

Unfortunately for Pirie, Brian Kent-Smith, 22, the farmer's son from North Devon, who is fighting for a place in the Empire Games team, raced away in the last quarter to win in 4 mins. 9.2 secs.

#### Happy

Pirie, who was nearly two seconds slower, gasped at the finish: "I couldn't raise a sprint"... but he was still happy about his performance.



GORDON PIRIE... an easy winner in two miles at Motspur Park last night

SURREY 3 MILES (MOTSPUR PARK) 1958



#### Convincing win

Gordon Pirie was a convincing winner of the three miles. He ran a very even race, going into the lead from Roland Langridge soon after the first lap.

He reached the mile in 4min. 35.4sec., and surrendered the lead to Mick Firth in the fifth lap. But he went in front again at two miles, reached in 9min. 15sec.

Firth stayed with Pirie until 200 yards from the finish. Then Pirie put in an electric spurt that carried him into a ten yards' lead and made him an easy winner.

Three Miles.—D. A. G. Pirie (South London H.C.) 1; M. Firth (South London H.C.) 2; S. R. Langridge (South London H.C.) 3. 15min. 54.2sec.

SWARD TROPHY SPORTS

CHISWICK 1958

## PIRIE WANTS A HAPPY ENDING

By TOM LYONS

**GORDON PIRIE** made a promising start to his last season in British athletics by winning the invitation two miles at Chiswick on Saturday in the Sward Trophy meeting.

Britain's wonder runner is returning to settle in New Zealand in October—and he plans to have a great finishing season.

Pirie spent three months in New Zealand after the Melbourne Olympic Games. And since his return he has been training for an executive job in New Zealand.

He is currently grinding out twenty miles every day in training. And his big ambition before leaving Europe is to run again against his old rival Vladimir Kuts, the Russian ace.



# PIRIE IN ACCIDENT

Gordon Pirie, the famous English runner, who is to compete in the 3 miles to-night and in the mile against Delany, Wood and Hewson to-morrow, was involved in a motor accident yesterday in Dublin on his way from Collinstown.

He said last evening that he was feeling shaken up but that he would run to-night and to-morrow.

"I've got to," he added. "The Irish public have been very good to me and have always treated me well, and I owe it to them to run."

The car in which Pirie was travelling was forced to pull up when a car in front stopped, and another car, which was following, ran into Pirie's car. Pirie was thrown up against the windscreen, taking most of the force of the jar on his hands, but the bucket seat of the car hit him on the shoulders, and last night his shoulder blade was very sore.

He was treated by a doctor who told him that nothing was broken, but he told me he was suffering from shock.

3 MILES

## PIRIE BEATEN Great Three Miles

The three miles produced a great race between D. A. G. Pirie—who appeared to have suffered no ill effects from the car crash in which he was involved last night—and D. G. Ibbotson, who finally won.

After the Dublin runner, B. Messer, had led until the last lap, Pirie and Ibbotson sprinted past him with 300 yards to go and had a tremendous tussle.

Showing something like his old form, Ibbotson's finishing burst was

faster and stronger, and in irresistible style he came away from Pirie in the home straight to win in 14min 0.7sec, beating Pirie by 15 yards.



PIRIE LEADS—The fourth lap of the three miles flat open showing D. A. G. Pirie (Gt. Britain) leading followed by G. D. Ibbotson (Gt. Britain), the winner, at Santry last night.



Illustrious opponents before the invitation mile at Santry Stadium last night are (left to right): R. Delany, D. Ibbotson and B. Hewson, all of whom are sub-four-minute milers, and G. Pirie, world record holder for 3,000 metres.

SANTRY STADIUM

DUBLIN

1958



1 MILE

Delany crossing the finishing line to win the mile from Brian Hewson and Derek Ibbotson at Santry

**R**UNNING a perfectly judged race, Ronnie Delany (Ireland), Olympic Games 1,500 metres champion, sent 15,000 Irish supporters wild with delight at the new Santry Stadium last night where he strengthened his position as best competitive miler in the world to-day by a comparatively easy victory over a combined force of England's best runners in Derek Ibbotson, the world's fastest miler, Brian Hewson, and Gordon Pirie.

By W. P. MURPHY

The time did not matter, for Delany always runs to win rather than beat the clock, and he was not letting anything upset his customary style last night.

The green singlet of the Irishman was in fourth position behind the pace-maker British trio, S. Eldon, Ibbotson and M. Beresford, with Brian Hewson just behind him as they reached the first bend—and so they remained throughout three laps, nobody attempting to relieve Eldon and force the pace.

**SLOW SECOND QUARTER**  
The first quarter was done in a speedy 61 secs., the half-mile in a slow 2 min. 5 secs, and the three-quarter mile in 3 min. 10 secs., which left a record of any kind out of the reckoning. When 2 min 5 secs. was announced for the half mile it was obvious that the time would not be in the 4 min. region, but the crowd did not mind.

They were urging on their favourite with cheers at every corner, in contrast to the previous night when the corners were deserted, and when he made his move 300 yards from the tape the crowd in the stand came to their feet, and the terracing exploded into vocal thunder.

Ibbotson had just taken over from Eldon as leader, and Hewson was right behind Delany as the Irishman swept past Beresford

and Eldon before the third bend. He raced by Ibbotson at the last bend and Hewson, still gamely trailing the Irishman, could make no impression on him in the run home to the tape, three yards separating them at the finish.

### MAGNIFICENT EFFORT

It was a magnificent effort by the young Irish runner, for he was a lone green singlet in the race against the combined forces of four of the best known names in English middle distance running—Hewson, Ibbotson, Pirie and Beresford.



# BRITISH GAMES

WHITE CITY 1958

880 YARDS



## CLOSE FINISH

D. Smith (N. Zealand) wins the 880 yards international race in 1 min. 50.7 sec. from U. Lundh (Norway) and H. Missalla (West Germany) at to-day's British Games at White City. The finish was keenly fought there was only 1.4 secs. between the first and sixth man home.

## SATISFIED

I SPOKE yesterday to GORDON PIRIE who disappointed with his back-marker efforts in the half-mile and mile.

He reflected on his times — 1min. 55.7sec. for the half and 4min. 10.9sec. for the mile—and said:

"I'M SATISFIED. I'M RUNNING BETTER AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR THAN I HAVE EVER DONE BEFORE OVER THESE SHORTER DISTANCES."

Pirie plans to race a lot this week and then concentrate on a week's hard training. "That is how I've come into form in previous seasons," he informed me.



ONE MILE

aszo Kovacs, of Hungary, an in the place of his countryman, Istvan Rozsavolgyi, in the international mile and this is what happened! Kovacs wins from

TWO MILES

THOSE two amazing fiends of the track, Gordon Pirie and Derek Ibbotson, met twice yesterday in events two hours and 15 miles apart—and twice thrilling finishes gave Pirie the victory.

In the two miles at the White City Ibbotson finished third, but only a second behind Pirie. Then, in the Watford open sports, Pirie made it a double, beating Ibbotson into second place with a two-yard, three-fifths-of-a-second victory in the mile.

## The smallest fraction

The first Pirie triumph was obtained only by the flash of the photo-finish camera. The thickness of a film was just about all you could squeeze between Pirie's chest thrusting into the tape and the man he robbed of victory, Hungary's Miklos Szabo, at the end of eight laps of cunning running.

How the cheers exploded, rending the grey day with a burst of joy, to welcome the near-forgotten thin man back to the top rank. This was vintage Pirie, a performance that delighted even himself. Ungiven to shows of emotion, Pirie fairly danced off the track to embrace his wife, Shirley.

Stan Eldon, the three-miling policeman from Reading, drew the field at the beginning, with arms pumping like a Zatopek. Behind him, like hungry bloodhounds, came Ibbotson, Szabo, and Pirie.

## Jockeyed

In the final thrilling quarter-mile they jockeyed for position, nobody wanting to lead.

Now, with 200 yards to go, Ibbotson leapt past Eldon and went sweeping into the final curve. Szabo, bald head bobbing madly, flung himself in pursuit.

Entering the straight Szabo streaked past Ibbotson. And now came Pirie's magnificent raking stride — pulling back Szabo's ten-yard lead.

Had Pirie made it? A three-minute wait—and then the giant cheer broke as Pirie was announced winner and the pair credited with equal time—8min. 46.4sec. Ibbotson was a second behind them.

At Watford Pirie won the mile event in 4min. 15.7sec. Ibbotson was two yards behind, and again had every chance to win. No quarter was asked for or given.

## Just to prove it

They let the local lads make the pace until 150 yards from home. Then Ibbotson jumped past Pirie, who threw everything into the chase, quickly drew alongside round the bend, and then pulled steadily away with Ibbotson vainly in pursuit.

Smiled Pirie: "A good ending to my Bank Holiday." And Ibbotson said: "I'm very tired. Gordon does three times as much training as me and recovers more quickly."



TOO CLOSE TO TELL. Pirie (16) and the Hungarian, Szabo (5), pass the winning-post so close together after running two miles the eye could not separate them, and the photograph (left) showed it was so close a thing Pirie was given the verdict by 1-200th of a second. Ibbotson (19) was a second behind them.





## FINE WIN BY PIRIE

THERE was a better attendance at Monday's meeting and the spectators were well rewarded by the last race of the day, which brought together for the first time over a mile Gordon Pirie and Derek Ibbotson.

Pirie, straight from his two-mile success at the White City, was surprisingly fresh and did the double over Ibbotson in a new track record of 4min. 15.7sec. Ibbotson's time was given as 4min. 16.3sec., while Watford's Mike Wiggs was third only half a second away.

J. Seymour (Wickham) set the pace for the first two laps and the half-way stage was reached in 2min. 3.5sec. Wiggs took up the running on the third lap and led at the three-quarter mark, which was reached in 3min. 14.3 sec.

Pirie took the lead running down the back straight and held off Ibbotson's challenge round the home bend to run in a good winner.



Gordon Pirie beats Derek Ibbotson to the tape in an exciting finish to the mile.

# SHIRLEY PIRIE'S GRIT WINS

TWO brave girls, Shirley Pirie and Madeleine Weston, stole the thunder in the women's A.A.A. championships at Motspur Park yesterday.

Salute Shirley Pirie. Last year, in Sweden, she snapped an Achilles tendon. An operation followed. For months the issue was in doubt—would Shirley run again?

Shirley's determination, plus that of husband Gordon, told.

## WELL DONE

On a hard, windy day, she equalled the British quarter-mile record of 56.4s. (one-tenth of a second outside the world record), repeating the time she returned in the heats, on Friday.



Shirley Pirie finishing the quarter-mile in 56.4s. at Motspur Park.



SHIRLEY PIRIE

SHIRLEY PIRIE... she equalled the women's 440 yards record for the second time in 18 hours.

## DOUBLE

Praise the PIRIES! Gordon leads the way with a smart weekend double, winning the 3,000 metres in Amsterdam yesterday in 8mins. 21.6secs. to follow-up his victory in a 1,500 metres race at Croydon on Saturday.

His wife, Shirley, won the 440 yards title in the women's A.A.A. championships in 56.4secs. to equal the English native, national and all-comers' records—for the SECOND time in two days.

But in Amsterdam yesterday she dropped down to the 100 metres and could only finish sixth. Heather Young won the race in 11.7sec.

BROCKMAN TROPHY SPORTS  
CROYDON, 1958



## EASY VICTORY FOR GORDON PIRIE

### C. SMITH'S RECORD

Gordon Pirie, the world's 3,000 metres record holder, continued his return to form with a comfortable victory in the 1,500 metres at Croydon on Saturday.

Running in the Brockman Trophy meeting he won his race in 3min 55.9sec, over 30 yards ahead of John Davies.

On Saturday Gordon Pirie (above and in front) led the way home in a 1,500metres race at Croydon Arena... on Sunday he again led the way in a 3,000 metres event in Amsterdam. His time was 8min. 21.6sec and he defeated Herman Buhl, of East Germany.

## Pirie wins in the rain

### BRITISH SUCCESSES IN AMSTERDAM

IN view of the conditions Gordon Pirie was quite pleased with his winning 8min. 21.6sec. time in Amsterdam on Sunday. "It was pouring with rain," he said, "and the track was really churned up as it has been used for speedway racing."

He raced on the same track two years ago but it was then in good shape. "There doesn't seem to be much public enthusiasm for athletics there," he said, "but those taking part are setting up good standards."

AMSTERDAM, Sunday.—D. A. G. Pirie won the 3,000 metres in the Olympic Day athletics meeting here to-day.

He clocked 8 min 21.6sec comfortably to beat H. Buhl, of East Germany, whose time was 8min 22sec. Pirie and Buhl slipped the field 300 metres from the tape, and Pirie, resisting the challenge of the German, finished strongly.



Heathfield Sports - W. A. L. O. R. on THAMES. 1958

# PIRIE TREATS THE FANS TO YEAR'S BEST

## Britain's top athletes on record form at Heathfield Sports

**S**HORTLY after 4 o'clock, the tall, thin, track-suited figure of the modern enigma of British athletics, Gordon Pirie, emerged from the relative darkness of the dressing rooms and jogged out to face Saturday's brilliant sunshine and the curious eyes of the spectators at the Heathfield Sports at Stompond Lane, Walton.

A few warming-up exercises before he stripped down and then Pirie was ready to do battle with three other Internationals for the mile-race honours. Taking the outside lane, Pirie was lying a comfortable second at the first bend with John Disley at his heels.

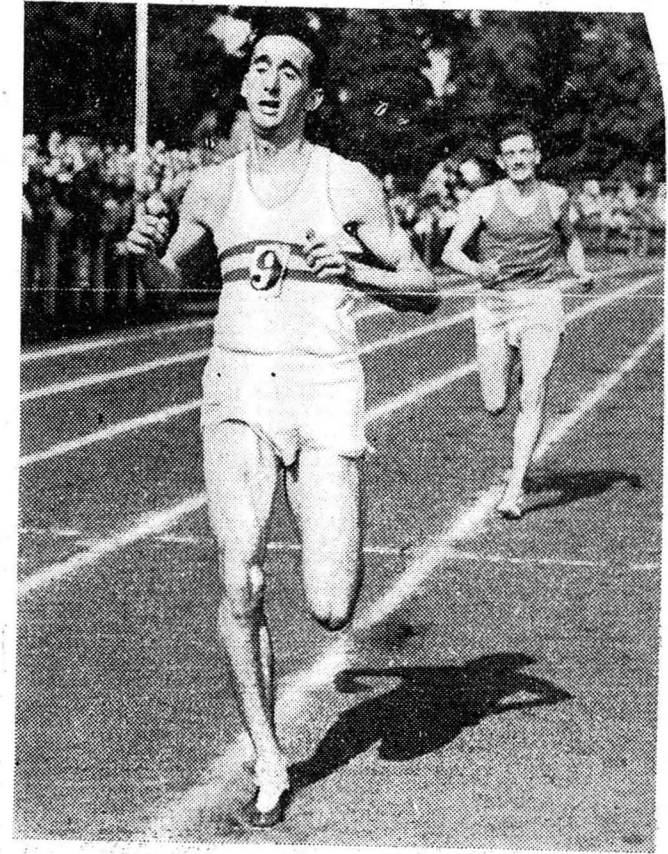
And that was still the order at the end of two laps, completed in 60.1 and 61.5 seconds—times which made the elusive four-minute-mile a possibility. With the leading man lagging, first Pirie and then Disley moved out to overtake but at the third lap bell, it was Disley who took the lead from Pirie with the rest of the field strung out behind.

### PIRIE MOVES UP

Around the first bend of the last lap, Pirie began to move up and forged ahead down the back straight. Only by a very fast lap could the winner break four minutes and Pirie was running very fast. Into the finishing straight the two leaders raced but it was Pirie's International vest which breasted the tape with numberless Disley three yards behind.

Even though Pirie was inside 60 seconds on the last lap, his finishing time was still 4.7 seconds outside the four-minute barrier. But it was nevertheless the fastest mile of the year so far in this country.

Disley's time of 4 minutes 5.4 seconds may earn him a place in the Welsh team for the Empire Games, where he may again be opposed by W. D. Bailey, who at Heathfield, finished way down in the field behind both Pirie and Disley.



"When he's good, he's very, very good," sums up the controversial Gordon Pirie. At Stompond Lane, Walton, on Saturday, he showed the fans some of his best form, beating Olympic athlete John Disley to the tape in a time of 4 minutes 4.7 seconds—the fastest time of the year for the mile in Britain.

# PIRIE ON FINAL LAP

**T**HIS is Gordon Pirie's last season. "Only a miraculous performance will make me run again," he says.

Already committed to return to New Zealand in October, he will drive overland with six passengers to South Africa and go on by boat to Australia.

"I cannot afford to continue running," says Gordon. He is certain of that, but far less sure what he will do on the track.

Pirie wants to run in the mile and the three miles at the Empire Games and probably the 5,000 metres in the European Games in Stockholm—if selected.

He is training harder than ever—forty quarter miles on one Sunday alone.



GORDON  
PIRIE

day, the day before the Empire Games selectors meet, in view of Eldon's form, this means breaking the English three-mile record.

"I will do to Eldon what I did to him at the White City two-mile on Whit-Monday," says Pirie. In that race, after Eldon had worked hard at the front, Gordon sprinted to snatch victory on the last lap.

Pirie is not boasting. Since his return from New Zealand he has quietened. The only thing that stirs his anger has been the surprise omission of his wife Shirley's name from the Empire Games team—after her great runs in the W.A.A.A. Championships last week.

"In 1952 officials said Shirley was too young for the Olympic Games," says Gordon. "Two years later Shirley was only put into the European Games team at the last minute—and then finished ahead of any other British girl."

### NOT BIG ENOUGH?

**P**IRIE added that Shirley was dropped for the 1956 Olympics—and now her name has been left out of the Empire Games.

I wonder if Shirley's trouble is belonging to a small club, the Phoenix?

While Gordon goes for the Southern three miles, Derek Ibbotson, without much opposition, runs at Manchester White City, in the Northern three.

Pirie, Eldon and Ibbotson are certs for Cardiff. Ibbotson's shake-up win over Australian Mervyn Lincoln at Vancouver last week in the mile was performed on two inches of liquid mud.

Southern Counties Three Miles Championship - Uxbridge. 1958



Stan's  
big  
joke...

...is on poor old Gordon Pirie. Stan is P.-c. Eldon, winning the Southern Counties three miles. And a long way behind—out of sight—is Pirie.

## ELDON WINS WITH PIRIE TRAILING

**S**TAN ELDON, 21-year-old Windsor policeman, arrived just in time for the Southern Counties Three Miles championship at Uxbridge yesterday and then went much too fast for Gordon Pirie, George Knight, and the rest.

In fact, his runaway win in 13min. 37.6sec. is the fastest time in Britain this year, one-fifth second faster than another Eldon run. Pirie ran into second place 35 yards behind.

After half a mile Eldon shot away into a 40-yard lead as though he were running a mile. The others lacked the courage to join in the speed battle and he was away on his own.

In the last mile Pirie, Knight, and Welshman John Merriman started to share the pacemaking, but they could not catch the policeman.

This was a tremendous effort by Eldon, who had been on special duty at Ascot last week.

"I've been away from home from eight in the morning until eight at night, and done hardly any training," he said. "I expected to get about fourth place today."



Empire Games selectors are on the spot

# I WON'T RUN IN 3 MILES

By ROSS HALL

GORDON PIRIE, the Angry Young Man of athletics, upset the plans of England's Empire Games selectors yesterday.

He announced he would not run in the three miles at the Kinnauld Trophy meeting at Chiswick on Saturday.

After that race, the selectors will name the man who joins Peter Clark, Stan Eldon and Derek Ibbotson in the Empire event at Cardiff next month.

I know the A.A.A. thought Pirie would run.

As he has the fastest time for the distance this season and is also world 3,000 metres record holder, he must have been favourite to win.

## Ridiculous

His decision not to compete has put the selectors on the spot.

Yesterday Pirie declared: "I never intended running in this event."

"I consider the idea of leaving a place open in the three miles nonsensical, and Derek Ibbotson's omission from the mile ridiculous."

"But," he insisted, "my decision not to run in the three miles on Saturday

had nothing to do with the Empire Games selection."

Yet Pirie, already named for the Empire mile, dearly wanted to run in the three miles at Cardiff as well. A good performance on Saturday would have seen to that.

Pirie says he will run in the half mile at Chiswick.

He explained: "The Kinnauld meeting is an inter-club affair, and I am running according to the needs of my club, South London Harriers."

Kinnauld Trophy  
880 yards  
Chiswick 1958



GORDON PIRIE

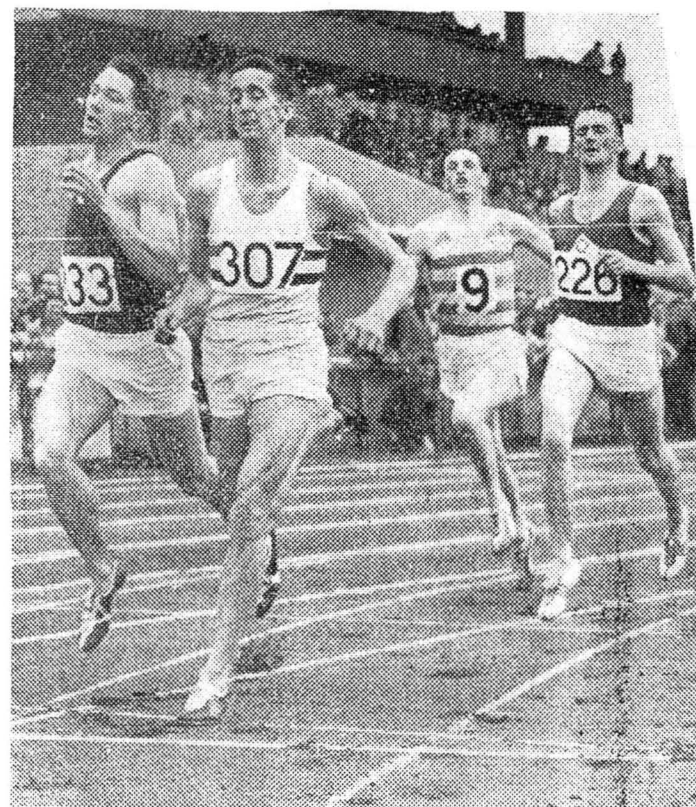
By ROY MOOR

SHOULD Gordon Pirie fill the three miles vacancy in England's team for the Empire Games? I am offering guineas for the best post-cards received by tomorrow.

The selectors have nominated Pirie for the mile only at the Cardiff Games, and will make a final choice for the three miles after the Kinnauld title race at Chiswick on Saturday.

But that day Pirie runs for his club in the 880 yards instead. That is why I am asking: Should the selectors nominate Pirie for the Empire three miles as well as the one mile?

My first guinea goes to Mr. G. D. Goodrich of Huron Road, Tooting Bec, London, who writes: "Pirie MUST be nominated for the three miles! He is the most versatile runner ever produced, with a time of 1min. 53sec. for 880 yards and 28min. 19.4sec. for six miles! His combination of speed and stamina has enabled him to outsmart such as Zatopek, Reiff, Kuc, Iharos, Chataway, Santee and Ibbotson. "Give that place to Pirie."



M. Rawson (Birchfield H.) pips Gordon Pirie at the tape in the first heat at Chiswick to-day.

## Great Finish

Mike Rawson (Birchfield Harriers) won the half-mile from the New Zealander, Don Smith, who is at Oxford University, in an exciting finish.

The first lap was completed in a dawdling time of 61.6sec. with Gordon Pirie leading. He had gone in front after stumbling badly at the start, and this cost him at least three yards.

## PIRIE IS IN 3 MILES

SO Gordon Pirie will run for England in the Empire Games 3-miles at Cardiff next month after all. And so I should think, writes Doug Wilson. Pirie was added to the list when the rest of England team for the Games were chosen last night.

Why he was not picked when the original selections were made six days ago I just can't imagine.

Stan Eldon, hero of yesterday's British record breaking 6 miles is, of course, number one choice for this distance, but he has been withdrawn from the 3 miles, despite being Britain's fastest this year.

The selectors have made a wise decision here. After yesterday's record Eldon will be odds-on favourite to take the Empire 6 miles title, but it would be asking too much to expect him to grapple with a punishing 3-miles as well.

Wearing the English colours with Eldon in the Empire six miles will be Hugh Foord (Brighton), Martin Hyman (Portsmouth) and Fred Norris (Bolton).

Mike Bullivant (Birchfield) gets Eldon's vacant place in the three miles. It will be his first international vest and he has certainly earned it. The Metropolitan policeman Dave McCorquodale is another newcomer to international honours with his selection for the shot putt.

## PIRIE? : 96 per cent are on his side

By ROY MOOR

GORDON PIRIE should be given the vacancy in England's team for the three miles at the Empire Games which start at Cardiff on July 18. That was the opinion of 96 per cent. of readers who entered my postcard competition.

Earlier this week the selectors nominated him for the mile only. Tonight they fill the vacancy in the three miles. MR. R. ROWLES, of Lodway Road, Bristol, 4, is in no doubt about who should be chosen.

He wins two guineas for this answer to my question: "Should Pirie be picked for the three miles?" He wrote: "Pirie MUST run in the Empire three miles. He is the only English athlete with the ability to grind the opposition into the track. His fabulous record is proof of his capabilities, and his current form justifies immediate selection."

Despite the controversy surrounding him, Pirie maintains AN INDOMITABLE WILL TO WIN... and that is why I say pick Pirie. He can win that three-miles gold medal for us at the Games."

A guinea goes to Mr. R. Kelsey, of Elm Road, Windsor (Berks), for the best keep-

Pirie - out reasoning. wrote:

"Pirie should NOT be selected for the three miles because:-

1-He lacked the stamina to keep up with, and beat Stan Eldon in the South title race last week-end. Pirie of yesteryear would have done this, and easily. I believe he is past peak over three miles.

2-Other men have improved more rapidly than Pirie this season and the vacant place should be given to Martin Hyman or Basil Heatley.

3-Selection should be based on consistent, improved running THIS season."

These comments earn half-guinea consolations:

## 'TEMPERAMENTAL... TACTLESS

● "Temperamental, touchy, tactless and uncooperative he may be—but Pirie is still England's best, fastest and the most RELIABLE three-mile runner."—S. Greenberg, Shacklewell Lane, Hackney, E.8.

● "Of course, the place must go to Pirie. Who is picking the Empire Games team? The F.A. selectors? G. Warman, Birmingham Road, Marlborough, Bromsgrove (Worcs).

● "These ill-judged outbursts by prominent athletes are becoming tiresome. Selection is a favour and decisions by selectors should be accepted without complaint."

Astell, Waterloo Street, Hove (sex).

● "If the selectors omit Pirie from the three miles team, it would be as fantastic as leaving out Wright from the England football team."—W. Mendelsson, Lee Crescent, Golders Green, N.W.11.

● "I say Pirie for the three miles. Fair play DEMANDS it. His and present performances, coupled with his future potential, ensure his selection. It is as simple as that."—J. Blundell, River View, Isca Road, Caerleon (Mon).

QUEEN'S PARK HARRIERS  
KINNAULD INVITATION RACE  
PADDINGTON 1958



## ELDON BEATS PIRIE OVER 1½ MILES

### EXCITING RACE

By Our Athletics Correspondent

On a rain-soaked tracks S. E. Eldon, the A.A.A. six miles champion, scored a great win over D. A. G. Pirie in the Queen's Park Harriers 1½ miles invitation event at Paddington last night.

After J. Baines, of Shaftesbury, had led for half a mile, Eldon went into the lead and was the head of the field at the one mile mark in the good time of four min. 20.6 sec.

Pirie took over the lead in the fifth lap but the real battle came in the final quarter mile in which Pirie and Eldon fought it out stride by stride.

Eldon proved the stronger and faster in the finish and won in 6min 27.6sec, Pirie finishing second in 6min 28.4sec, with the Olympic steeple-chaser E. Shirley, third, some distance back in 6min 35.4sec.

It was another brilliant performance by Eldon who conclusively showed that in addition to his remarkable stamina he also can produce exceptional speed when required.

## STAN LEADS

## PIRIE HOME

STAN ELDON

(right), new England six-miles-record-holder, beat Gordon Pirie last night over 1½ miles at Paddington. Eldon's time of



By "Nomad"

JUST OVER seven years ago Gordon Pirie, of South London Harriers, then a comparatively unknown runner, came to Southampton's Sports Centre and caused a stir at the men's Ryder Trophy meeting by winning the mile second string in 4min. 14.4sec. a new ground record, and nearly 14 seconds faster than the winning first string miler's time.

At the same meeting his club-mate Lloyd Morgan also broke the ground record for the three miles with a time of 14min. 33sec.

Since those days Pirie has made a great name for himself, and it was as the world's fastest 3,000 metres runner that he returned to the Sports Centre for Saturday's Ryder Trophy meeting to steal the headlines again with another brilliant performance that pro-

but then on the back straight Pirie produced a typically devastating final effort and he drew steadily away to break the tape 40 yards ahead of his rival.

Hyman clocked 14 mins 3.4 secs, over six seconds faster than his ground record-breaking effort of last week, while Llewellyn was way behind third in the field of 14 in 14 mins 27.2 seconds.

Pirie's performance watched by his wife was all the more impressive because conditions did not help him, the track being still on the soft side after the rain earlier in the week. "I thoroughly enjoyed myself" he told me afterwards.

At the same meeting in 1954 by the way Pirie's brother Peter won the three miles in 14 mins 28.8 secs, while his own 1951 one-mile ground record stood for four years

1958  
ENGLAND'S selection of Gordon Pirie for the Empire Games three miles at Cardiff next month has saved athletics from one of the biggest rows since the war.

Pirie, not originally named for the race, was so determined to run in the three miles at Cardiff that he made an approach to the Scottish AAA to represent them.

Gordon's father, Alick, ran for Scotland in the international cross country race in 1926.

Nor is that all, as Pirie revealed to Norris McWhirter.

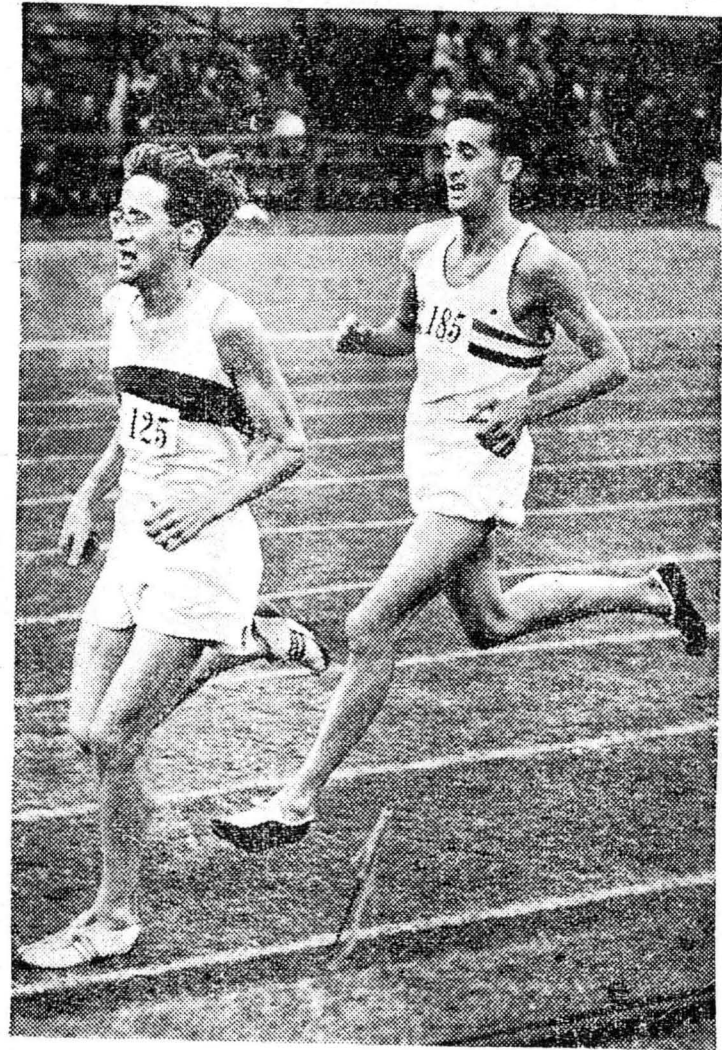
### Second move

When the Scots could not see their way to having the Yorkshire-born Pirie in their team, the world 3,000 metres record holder was all set to start negotiations with the Bermuda governing body.

His father was born on this West Atlantic island.

Now Pirie is quite happy because he will be wearing the English rose in both the mile and the three miles.

He's certainly unorthodox, this man Pirie. But I can't fail to admire his spirit.



Gordon Pirie and Martin Hyman pictured just after the bell in the three miles.

until Peter Driver beat it with a time of 4 mins 9.8 secs and that still stands to this day.

vided the highlight of the afternoon.

Winning the three miles in superb style in 13 minutes 57 seconds he clipped 12.8 seconds off the ground record set up only last Wednesday by Southampton University student Martin Hyman in the triangular match between the Universities Athletic Union, the Army and Hampshire.

Appropriately enough, it was Hyman, running for Portsmouth AC and like Pirie, a member of the England team for the Empire Games at Cardiff later this month, who had a hand in the South London man's record-breaking effort, for he set the pace in a memorable race and finished second.

### TERRIFIC FINISHING SPURT

From the end of the third quarter-mile lap until about 250 yards from the tape Hyman stayed a yard in front of Pirie with another England international, Tony Llewellyn gradually dropping further behind in third place.

At the bell, which Hyman reached in 12min. 56.4sec, there were encouraging cheers from



WE said, rather reluctantly, "farewell" to Gordon Pirie at Croydon Arena on Wednesday evening. But we gave an enthusiastic welcome and a great big "hello" to Gft. Bob Harvey, who recently moved from Thornton Heath to Sydenham.

For, as surely as one star fades from the scene, so another takes its place, and we can look forward to some performances by the modest Harvey which will continue to carry Croydon's banner high in the athletic world in maintaining the tradition which the great Pirie has firmly established.

Nineteen just two weeks ago, the insurance clerk captured the imagination of everyone present at the "Croydon Times" meeting with his tremendous 1 min. 53 sec. victory in the 880-yards.

It was the highlight of an outstanding evening of athletics which saw the cream of Britain's runners rubbing shoulders with competitors from New Zealand, Ghana, British Guiana, South Africa and Rhodesia. How many secrets were they holding from each other in view of their forthcoming clash again in the

all-important British Empire Games?

None it seemed. No punches were pulled as they tried to outwit each other in their respective events.

### Conceded lead

There was tall, moustacheoed Sullivan from Rhodesia. For one moment in the one mile it looked as though he would eclipse our Gordon, who was making his last competitive appearance in his home town.

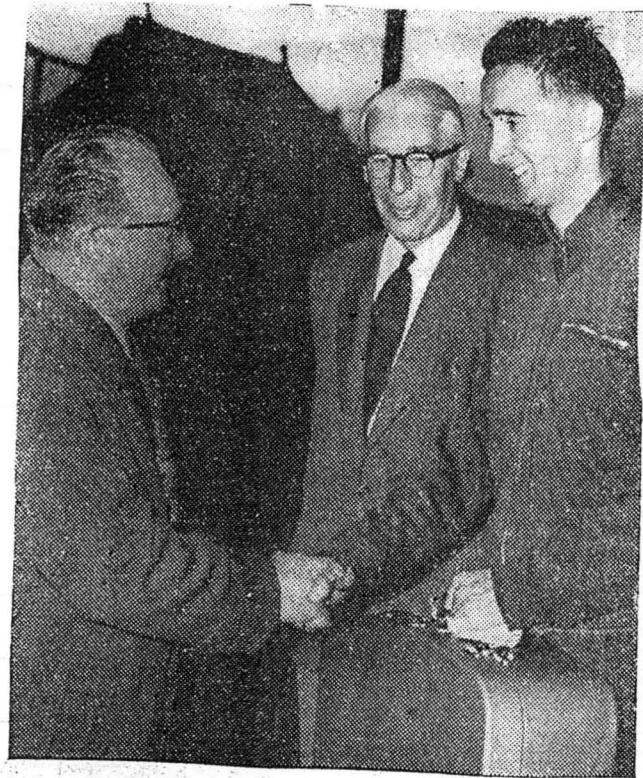
The dozen runners soon strung out as Dick Baines set a good pace and, with Pirie on

his heels, the first lap of the mile was reeled off at 57.8 sec. Pirie swept past a tired Baines at the half-mile with 2min 0.1 sec. on the clock, but at the bell (3 min. 7.2 sec) Pirie conceded the lead to the striding Rhodesian and John Davies, the Belgrave Harrier.

And so it remained. The elusive sub-four minute mile slipped from Pirie as the three battled away down the back straight. Then came a flash of the old Pirie. Some 100 yards from home he thrust past Sullivan and clung to the slender lead until he crossed the line in 4 min. 9.2 sec.—a new meeting record by 7.8 seconds—with the Rhodesian only .5 seconds behind! "It was a good night and I had hoped to do a 3 min. 59 sec.," he told me afterwards. "I moved well in practice on Sunday when I did a 2min. 57.6 sec for three-quarters of a mile."

As an afterthought, Pirie told me that he had had a touch of food poisoning since Monday and that his first square meal in two days had been a few hours before the meeting.

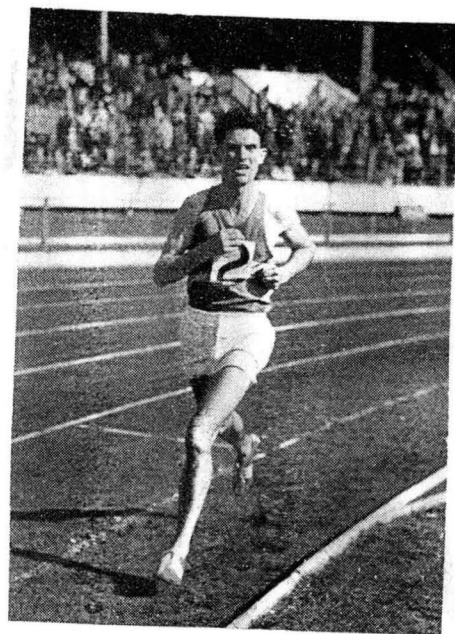
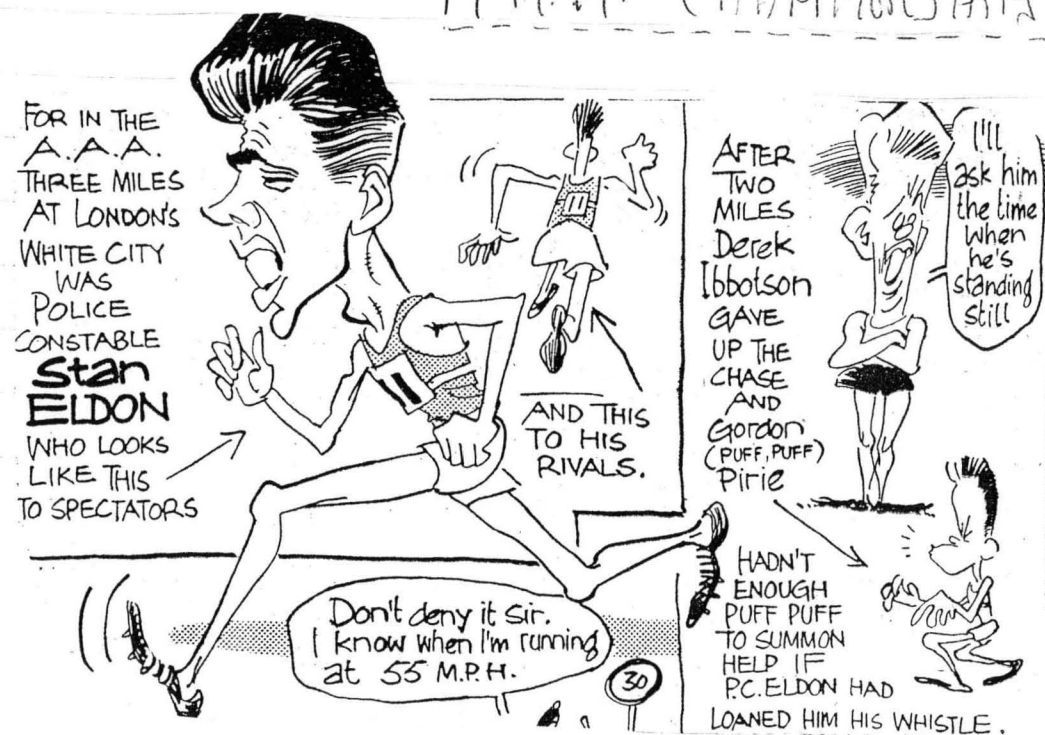
What bad luck! But his victory on that evening plus all his other feats will be held in the highest esteem by his local townsfolk for many years to come.



Gordon Pirie, who made his last competitive appearance at Croydon Arena on Wednesday evening, is handed his prize of a suitcase and congratulated by the Mayor of Croydon (Ald. H. Lock Kendall) for his splendid performance in winning the mile event, one of the highlights of the "Croydon Times" meeting. Looking on is Mr F W Cranmer, director.



# A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS 1958



Stan Eldon (Windsor & Eton A.C.), the A.A.A. 3 miles Champion.

## WEARY PIRIE Comes in 12th

The rudest blow of all came through the magnificently thorough three-mile victory of S. E. Eldon, who is in the six miles at Cardiff. Over half a lap behind him a weary Pirie toiled in 12th. An even wearier Ibbotson had dropped out after two miles.

Neither looked likely to be a serious force at Cardiff to-morrow week and the selectors will now have to think hard about their choice for the 5,000 metres in Stockholm. The only English competitors to make any show behind Eldon, were P. R. Clark, who finished third, and G. Knight, last year's six-mile hero, who finished fifth.

Eldon was described by someone as "the front runner to end all front runners" and, with shoulders rolling and arms across chest, he had the field strung out on Saturday with a remarkable four minute 17.6 first mile.

At this point he was 25 yards ahead of a very brave Kenyan, Maiyoro, who ran alone in second place throughout. Another 25 yards behind came Pirie, Ibbotson and the rest.

After that, the main question was whether Eldon could beat Ibbotson's British all-comers record of last year 13min 20.8. A second mile in 4 min 32.4 kept him up with the clock but with no one to keep him going the early pace began to tell. Though he finished with a 53sec last quarter, he was 1.6sec outside the record.



## The village run around

By J. B. G. THOMAS

ROUND and round they went, lap after lap, the most discussed athletes in the Empire Games—Gordon Pirie and Derek Ibbotson, and athletes from all nations watch them on the training track at the St. Athan Empire Village (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

Are they finished? Will they hit the headlines again? Can they recapture the glory that was theirs?

Pressmen, officials, and competitors from all countries watched these two famous athletes undergo a hard work-out yesterday in an attempt to get mentally and physically fit for next week's great tests at the Arms Park.

Their opponents believe they are "burnt out," and say Pirie "killed" himself chasing Kuts at Melbourne, and Ibbotson, by his fantastic series of races last year.

Will they prove the critics wrong? The facts supporting the argument say "No!" but even a 100 Pressmen and critics could be wrong!

### No comment

The two athletes offer no comment, but all Wales is wondering, "Can they reach top form again?"

It is an old tag that champions never come back, but the great crowd at the Arms Park will make their voices heard if the TV favourites of British athletics do come back.

Douglas Alastair Gordon Pirie runs the mile heats a week tomorrow, and George Derek Ibbotson in the three miles next Tuesday.

Will it be their "swan-song" or their big "come-back?"

Welshmen will watch eagerly for they like nothing better than

to see great stars fighting back against criticism and lack of form. They are not ready to applaud ingratitude.

The practice track at St. Athan provided a feast of colour as the young men and women of all nations trained together.

Canadians, Australians, West Indians, Indians and South Africans were all at the starting blocks together, and there were no "incidents," and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Terry Sullivan of Rhodesia accompanies bare-footed Gordon Pirie in a practice run at Cardiff.

Two of England's runners in this event are those controversial characters GORDON PIRIE and DEREK IBBOTSON, seen (left) during a training run.

## COMPANION FOR PIRIE



### SMILING MILERS

England's Gordon Pirie and Neville Scott (New Zealand),



### Pirie escapes

We are not the only escapists from the Empire Games village. Gordon Pirie has slept out of camp ever since he arrived on Sunday. "There is too much noise to sleep peacefully in the camp," he says with justification.

There is only hardboard partitioning between the cubicles, and even this does not reach the roof of the huts. One noisy person can keep 50 people awake.

Pirie has his wagon in a nearby field, and lives there with his wife, Shirley. Mrs. Pirie has been helping both her husband and Derek Ibbotson by timing their work on the track.

### Steps up training

When team manager Pat Sage arrived last night, Pirie at once sought and received his blessing on his accommodation arrangement.

Pirie has stepped up his training although lowering the pace of his running.

"In the last two days I have run 50 miles," he tells me. "Some of my muscles have not liked it, but I shall carry on for a couple of days and then ease off in readiness for Tuesday's three miles."

After that Pirie has a mile heat on Thursday, and with any luck the mile final two days later.

In step at Paddington as they practised for the Empire Games... Gordon Pirie



# PIRIE WARNED

## OF MORE BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE IF YOU GO HOME'

PIRIE, controversial character of world sport, was ordered last night to the line — or get out." The ultimatum came as a prelude to the opening at Cardiff Arms Park.

had failed to semi-finals and the final of the 100 yards tomorrow must attend. "When he finally arrived at the Stadium I took him aside with the athletics captain Ian Boyd and the vice-captain Geoff Elliott and told him: 'Any further breach of discipline and home you go.' I also told him that his sleeping-out pass had been withdrawn."

### Too hot

Pirie was the only member of the England team who had permission to sleep outside the Village, said Mr. Sage. "He had asked permission to sleep under canvas as he said the huts were too hot for him. I saw no reason to refuse him this request. Now, however, he will have to sleep with the rest in the Village."

t started the row brewed up: the coaches left the dashed up in his and was told to his white flannels, and grey felt hat and make his own ns Park.

aid that he had an explanation of l at the parade in nation was not me. I told him eviously given him s. He had asked miss the opening, this had been

ided, with the r. K. S. Duncan, am manager, that printers who are eats and possibly

An angry Pirie told me: "My wife and I have been camping out in the district. Now they force me to move into camp. I decided to camp out because it is impossible to sleep in the Village because of the noise."

Shirley Hampton said: "I'm very disappointed. It's a lot of trouble about nothing." Pirie drove into camp at 6.45 in his German-built van—TYN 127—which was loaded with camping equipment.

After playing table tennis barefoot in the N.A.A.F.I., Pirie told me over a 10 o'clock dish of soup: "I would normally be in bed by 9.30 but it will be impossible to sleep in this place without ear-plugs, and that is out of the question."

"My wife and I are fed up with the whole thing."

## THE SIXTH British Empire and Commonwealth Games



WALES 1958



Gordon Pirie and his wife photographed at the Empire Village, St. Athan, last night.

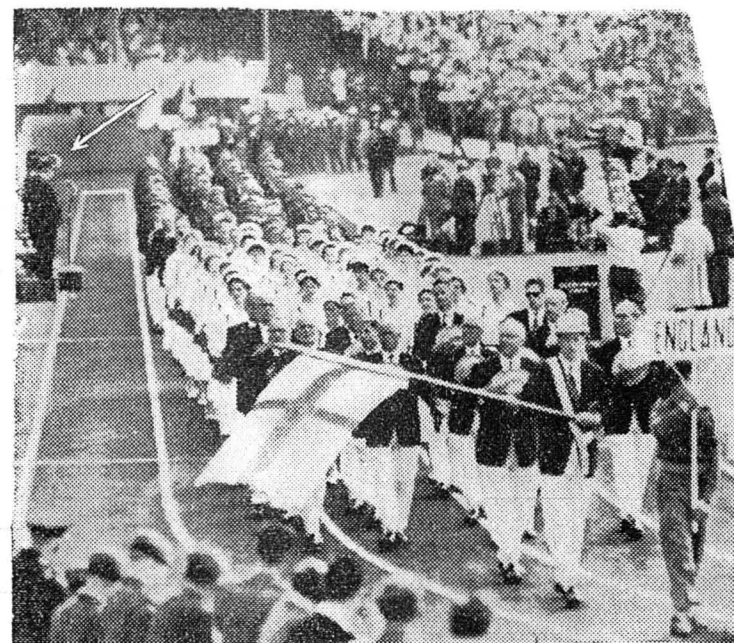
# SPOTLIGHT

VIth BRITISH EMPIRE AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES

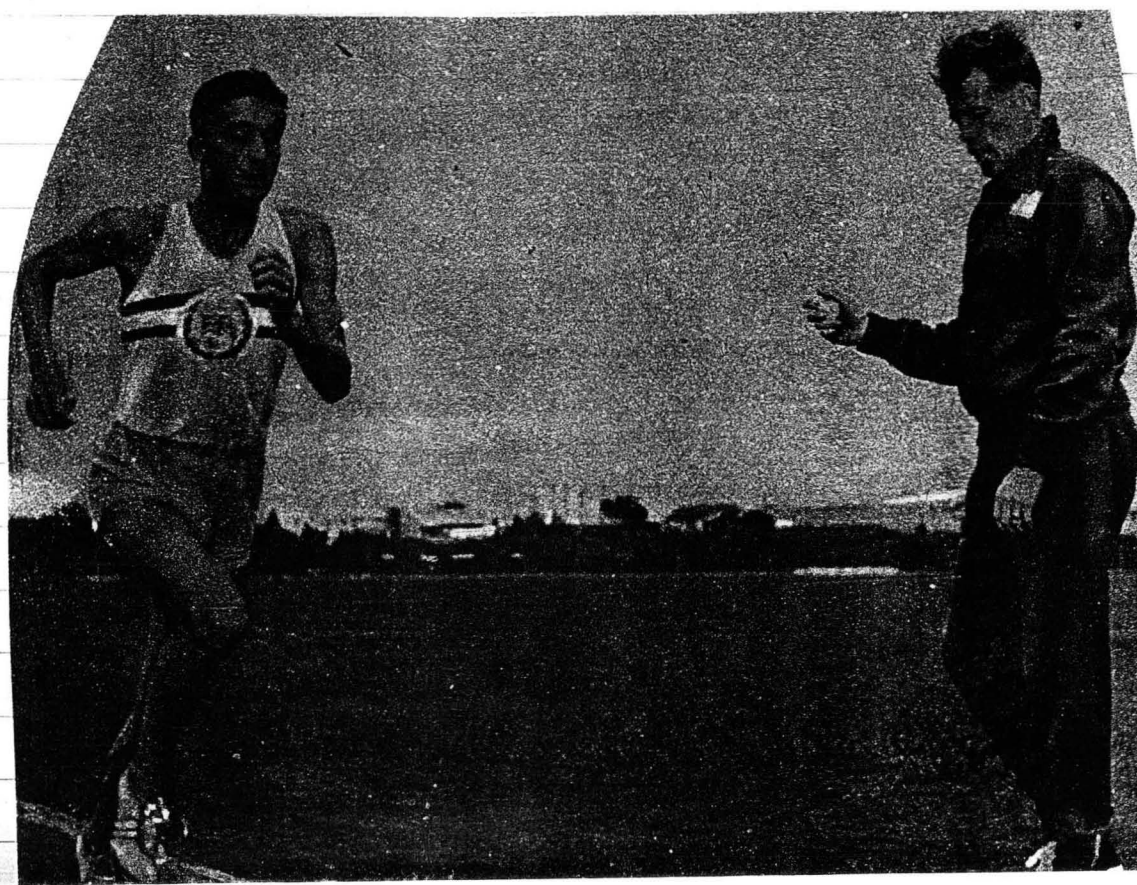


WALES

W-24K-731



OPENING OF THE EMPIRE GAMES. The England team marching past Prince Philip (arrowed) during the opening ceremony of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games at Cardiff Arms Park yesterday. About 1,500 competitors from 37 countries are taking part.





### Three miles

ALAS for England's hopes! Those who came expecting some miraculous revival by Pirie and/or Ibbotson stayed to watch Australasian heels grind deeper into the cinders the homeland's faded reputation at this distance.

Only once before has English supremacy been toppled in the Games three miles. That was in 1938 when New Zealand's C. H. Matthews slashed the series record by 33 seconds to a then fabulous 13.59.6. Cardiff saw the wheel turn full circle as another Kiwi, in the person of unassuming Murray Halberg, clipped more than 20 secs. off Chataway's Vancouver time and soundly beat world record holder Al Thomas in the process.

The stock Thomas, after his 13.10.8 in Dublin, was an obvious favourite and set a business-like pace in keeping with that role. Pirie, Maiyoro and Ibbotson followed him as he completed the first lap in 64.6, but it was the Australian who dictated the race as he swept to the half-mile in 2.8.0, threequarters in 3.12.6 and mile in 4.18.4.

Through the fifth lap (5.25.6) and the sixth (6.34.8) he continued confidently and on the seventh (7.42.6) put in a Kutsian burst. It carried him nowhere away from the danger behind as two black-vested figures pounced in unison and Halberg and Scott moved up for the kill.

Thomas kept ahead at two miles (8.55.6) with Scott behind him doing the donkey work for Halberg, but on the ninth lap (10.3.6) Halberg chose his moment, and forged to the front, followed by his teammate. At 2½ miles (11.7.0) he was 20 yards ahead and pulling away.

So to the bell in 12.11.2 and a last lap in which Thomas could do no more than overtake Scott, without hope of catching his main rival. Halberg ran smoothly on, to win by 60 yards in the third fastest time ever recorded.

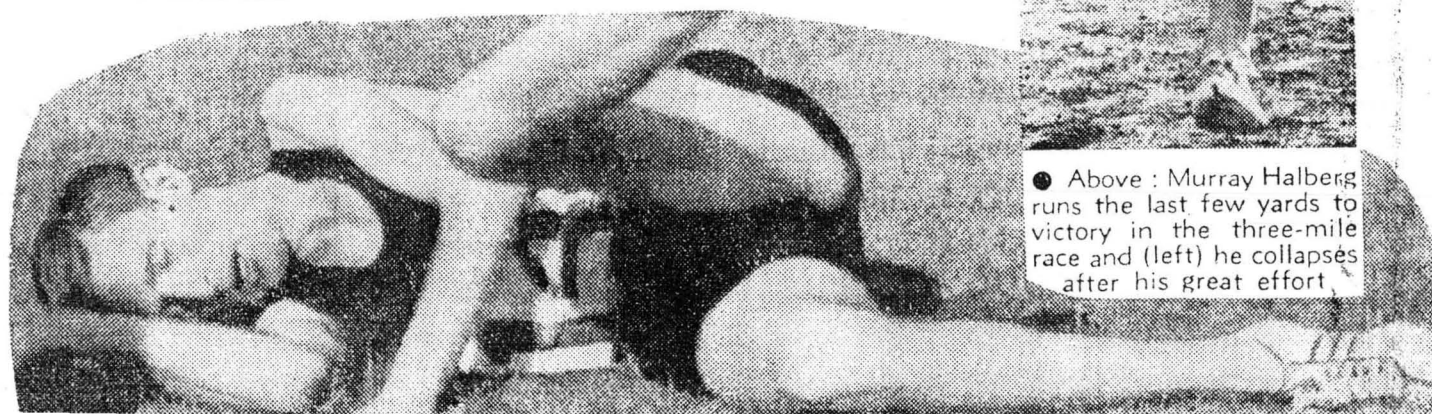
Behind Scott came Pirie and Clark—both in a personal best time, but with Clark glowering at his colleague for some misapplied footwork. What a sad contrast was this to the Kiwis' teamwork. Sadder still, perhaps, was the sight of a weary Ibbotson lumbering home tenth. The Arms Park battle was evidently not to be won on the golf course of Porthcawl.

### RESULT

1. M. G. HALBERG (N.Z.), 13.15; 2. A. G. THOMAS (Aus.), 13.24.4; 3. N. I. SCOTT (N.Z.), 13.26.2; 4. D. A. G. PIRIE (Eng.) 13.29.6; 5. P. R. CLARK (Eng.), 13.30.6; 6. J. MERRIMAN (Wales), 13.32.4; 7. W. D. POWER (Aus.) 13.37.6; 8. A. ONENTIA (Kenya), 13.42.2; 9. W. D. BAILLIE (N.Z.) 13.44.4; 10. G. D. IBBOTSON (Eng.); 11. M. J. BULLIVANT (Eng.); 12. N. MAIYORO (Kenya); 13. D. J. P. RICHARDS (Wales); 14. L. BINNIE (Scot.); 15. A. B. MAGEE (N.Z.); 16. J. CONNOLLY (Scot.); 17. W. McCUE (N. Ireland); 18. K. SUM (Kenya); 19. G. DE PEANA (Brit. Guiana); 20. N. M. SHAH (Pak.); 21. A. W. SALLEH (Sarawak). J. DISLEY (Wales) did not finish.



● Above: Murray Halberg runs the last few yards to victory in the three-mile race and (left) he collapses after his great effort.



### CARDIFF

### WALES 1958

### ONE MILE

Of the home representatives thin man Gordon Pirie alone put up any sort of opposition to finish a-puffing and blowing fourth after seeing a bronze medal snatched from him in the last punishing 10 yards.

What a race! What amazing confidence Elliott has in his own pace judgment.

Once he had decided that this was no sort of company to be seen in the gold medal was in the bag.

### Teaming up

It seemed to me that there was a little bit of teaming up going on amongst the two New Zealanders with the possibility of Murray Halberg adding another gold medal to the one he collected so efficiently in the three miles.

Neville Scott, his Kiwi colleague, made the pace over the first quarter and looked to be prepared to sacrifice his chances to break the rest of the field.

He broke himself and Halberg, having covered the first lap in 61.3sec, which gave everybody who knew their athletics the indication that we were due for another sub four minute mile.

Elliott decided that this was the time to make a break. He was followed by Lincoln.

Pirie fastened on and so into the third lap with Pirie tucked in behind Elliott ready to have a go.

Then we saw the distress signals as Pirie rolled and shook his head.

Away went Elliott after the bell, and as he entered the last bend it was a case of 15 yards, 20 yards, 25 yards with the field trailing, and Pirie having a terrific struggle down the home straight for third place.

### 'Indian sign'

He seemed to be due for the rostrum and a bronze medal from the Duke of Edinburgh when he suddenly felt the full impact of the pace, which had been too fast for him, and could do nothing about it when Thomas made a sprint to register Australia's greatest victory in this event.

Australians have complained that Welsh crowds have not been giving them a fair deal in applauding their representatives. They can withdraw that complaint straight away.

All on his own, Herb Elliott, that great Australian athlete, collects his second gold medal by winning the mile at Cardiff yesterday. Man behind him, Merv Lincoln, is no slouch when it comes to "miling," but look at the distance he is from the fantastic Herb!



● Herb Elliott, half-mile gold medallist, streaks home comfortably from Gordon Pirie (England) in the mile.



Some first-class racing dominated the second day of the British Games sponsored by the *News of the World* at the White City yesterday before a crowd of more than 45,000, larger than for many seasons. There were admirable performances in the 880 yards, mile, and two miles, and particular satisfaction for spectators in Clark's two miles win in 8min. 37.6sec.—the third fastest time for this distance. The British Empire and Commonwealth team won both their matches with Great Britain, the men by 199 to 162 and the women by 89½ to 83½.

#### BOUNDING AWAY

Clark, in the two miles, at last showed the type of courageous running that is needed in the middle distances if Britain are to have any chance against the rest of Europe at Stockholm. After the first three laps had been run in 63 seconds, 64.4 and 66.1, the mile was reached in 4min. 19.4sec. by Heatley. Then, on the back straight of the fifth lap, Clark, as if tired of the continual changes in pace and leadership, shot away.

On the back straight of the sixth lap Clark increased his lead over Pirie and Gordon to 12 yards, and he passed the mile and a half in 6min. 28.8sec. At the bell (7min. 32.4sec.), bounding away with powerful strides, he was 25 yards ahead and, in spite of having run the penultimate lap in 63.6sec., he covered the last 440 yards in a brave 65.2sec. Clark's final time of 8min. 37.6sec. means that he must go to Stockholm in the 5,000 metres, for Pirie is at present far more suited to the 1,500 metres.



Peter Clark coming round the final bend to win the two miles to-day.



A. G. Thomas (Australia) winning the three miles at the White City this afternoon.

ALBERT THOMAS (Australia) leading STAN ELDON (Great Britain) during the Britain v. Empire match at the White City, London.



#### Thomas Again

Australian Albert Thomas beat Stan Eldon, Gordon Pirie and Peter Clark in the three miles to beat Derek Ibbotson's British record of 13min. 20.6sec.

After the first mile it became a straight duel between Thomas and Eldon. The British policeman whose right hand was heavily bandaged from an injury the previous night showed his typical tenacity by staying with Thomas.

In fact he did more than this. Twice over the last six laps he stole the lead on a track which had been flooded earlier by a cloudburst.

But all the time the personality of the little Australian dominated the race. In the sixth lap he sapped Eldon's strength with a 440 yards covered in 64.3 sec. As Eldon stuck with him the Australian piled home another lap of 66sec.

A half mile of 2min. 10sec. in the middle of a three mile race is the symbol of a great runner. And make no mistake, that is what Thomas looked to-day.

Eldon was obviously handicapped by the hangover of an Empire Games six miles defeat and the fact that last night he cut open his hand through a glass window at eleven o'clock.

"I should have gone to hospital but was worried the doctor might ask me to withdraw from this race."

#### Best of Career

Although Thomas was the superior man, Eldon resurrected himself as an athletic giant to-day. His time of 13min. 23sec. for the second place was the fastest of his career and certainly earned him a ticket for the European championships.

I imagine his partner in Stockholm will be Gordon Pirie who finished third. But how sad to see the once mighty Pirie with his head nodding like a doll once the little Thomas stepped up the pace.



## NEW TRACK RECORD FOR THE 880 YARDS

By POSTMAN

THE two Australian "marvel men" — Elliott and Lincoln — a pleasant sunny afternoon, and four English internationals thrown in for good measure. There, in a nutshell, is the story of August Bank Holiday Monday at Woodside.

The largest crowd of 1958 were given an added treat when the loudspeaker announced that the two Australians would be coming down from the White City with Gordon Pirie and Derek Ibbotson.

They duly arrived with Herb Elliott running against Pirie in the "half" and Lincoln finishing on his own in the two miles after setting his own pace for seven of the eight laps, Elliott was a winner too.

Yes, the races were won by the Australians, but they were not without a shock. This was provided in the 880 yards when it was county champion John Wenk (Welwyn) and not Pirie who followed Elliott home.

The Australian finished 15 yards ahead of game John in a

### ATHLETICS

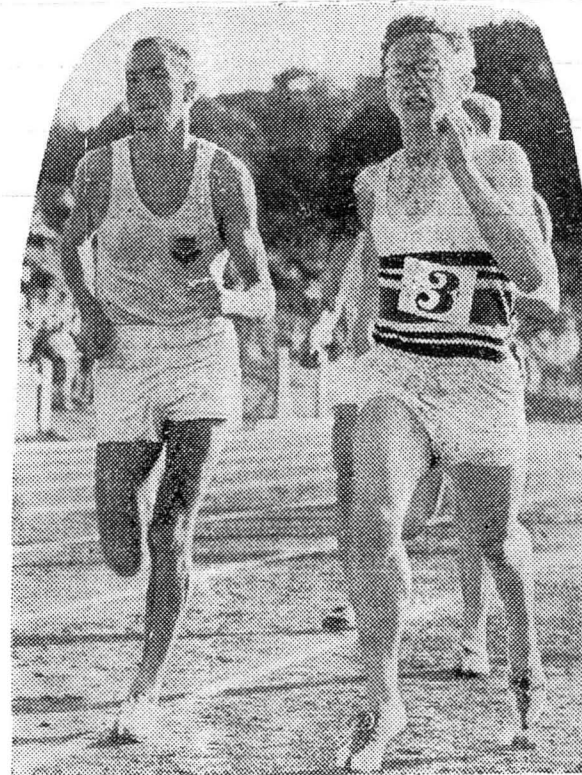
new track record time of 1 minute 50.7 seconds, but it was not until the back straight that Elliott finally shook off Wenk.

Where was Pirie? Down the field (fourth to be exact), with J Marsden of Achilles taking third spot.

#### ELLIOTT AHEAD

Elliott took the lead just before the half-way stage, but for a while he had Watford's Derek Fear running up to his shoulder. That was the order at the bell, when Elliott's time was 55 seconds. Pirie was in fourth position.

Previous Woodside track record was 1 minute 51.3 seconds, set up by Buswell last season. Ken's time was 1 minute 55 seconds, not a personal best, and Marsden returned 1 minute 56 seconds.



Herb Elliott works his way uphill in the early stages of the 880 yards.—S4355D.



Signature hunters surround Herb Elliott and Merv Lincoln.—S4351D.



The men the Woodside crowd waited eagerly to see. Australia's star miler, Herb Elliott, relaxes with Gordon Pirie while



## ELDON RUNS

9th—SAYS

'I'M PLEASED'

By ALAN WILLIAMS

WINDSOR policeman Stan Eldon struggled home ninth out of 10 runners behind Gordon Pirie over 1,500 metres at Paddington last night.

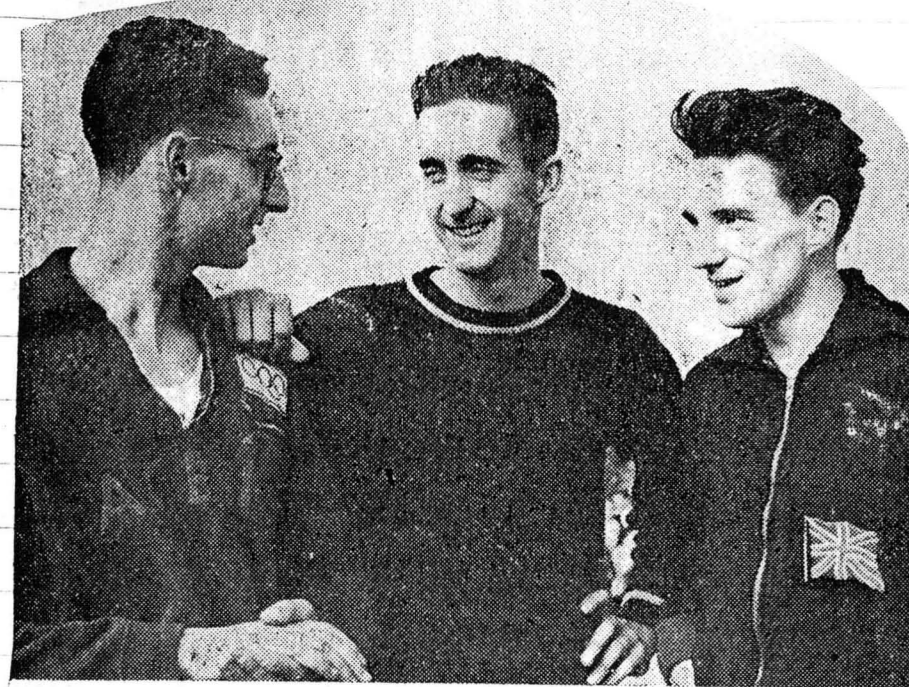
Then Eldon pronounced himself "very pleased and all set for a good time in the British Games three miles on Saturday." Explained Eldon: "I set out to discover whether my poor Empire Games six-mile form was a temporary affair. And by doing 3min. 52sec.—worth my fastest mile time of 4min. 9sec.—I'm convinced I've not gone stale."

★

Eldon led on the first two laps last night, but on the third Pirie, steeplechaser Eric Shirley, and Mike Blagrove strode through. Shirley, always impressive, went ahead until 80 yards from the finish, but Pirie pounded through to win by 10 yards in 3min. 48.2sec.

Shirley was second and Blagrove third.

A gay and so-friendly Pirie said: "I'm well pleased. My time was worth a 4min. 4sec. mile, and, of course, the track was a little loose."



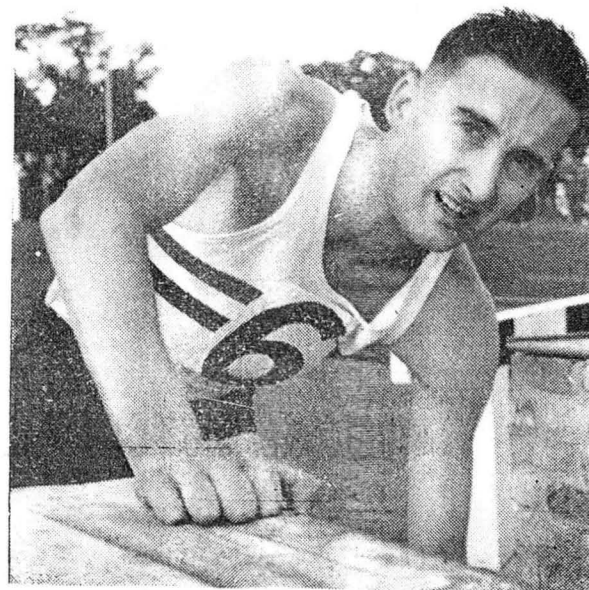
INTERNATIONALS.—These three (left to right) D. H. Segal (Thames Valley Harriers), D. A. G. Pirie (South London Harriers) and P. F. Radford (Birchfield Harriers), who took part in the sports, are among Great Britain's representatives in the European championships at Stockholm

## KODAK SPORT'S Victory For Pirie

D. A. G. Pirie was in winning form at the Kodak sports at Wealdstone. Taking the lead just before the bell in the mile, he romped home to an easy 12 yard victory.

Gordon Pirie winning the mile in comfortable style.

2 miles Mootspur Park 1958.



## PIRIE BLAZES HOT TRAIL

By John Bromley

GORDON PIRIE, fighting hard to keep his place among the sport's top men, scored for the second successive night at Mootspur Park last evening.

Pirie won the two miles in 8 min. 54.4 sec., but he was given a run for his money by little known Frank Seal, a 22-year-old National Serviceman from Ponders End. Seal caught Pirie at 1½ miles, but the last named produced a fantastic burst over the last furlong.

LEAVING England in September, to seek a permanent home in the New Zealand sun, are Shirley and Gordon Pirie. But before sailing away, the lithe, graceful Pirie has—or is it now "had"—a last athletic ambition.

"I just want to beat Vladimir Kuts," he told me wistfully in the Empire Village.

"Wistfully," because lost among the big news from Moscow last week was a short news item which said that Kuts, sick with a stomach ailment, had been dropped from Russia's team in the USSR v USA battle of the athletic giants in Moscow this afternoon.

And the European Championships in Stockholm, which would be Pirie's last chance of matching his strength against Kuts, are only three weeks away.

All last season Gordon waited for a Kuts meeting—in vain. Now there is little chance of a Kuts' recovery in time.

It was a puzzled Pirie to whom I talked at the Empire Village a day after he finished fourth in the three miles.

"Why is everyone running me down?" he asked. "My time was the fastest I have ever done for the distance."

A fair question. I could not answer it.

## Pirie's bus

GORDON PIRIE, running for Britain in the 5,000 metres in the European championships this afternoon, was worried when I telephoned Stockholm earlier today.

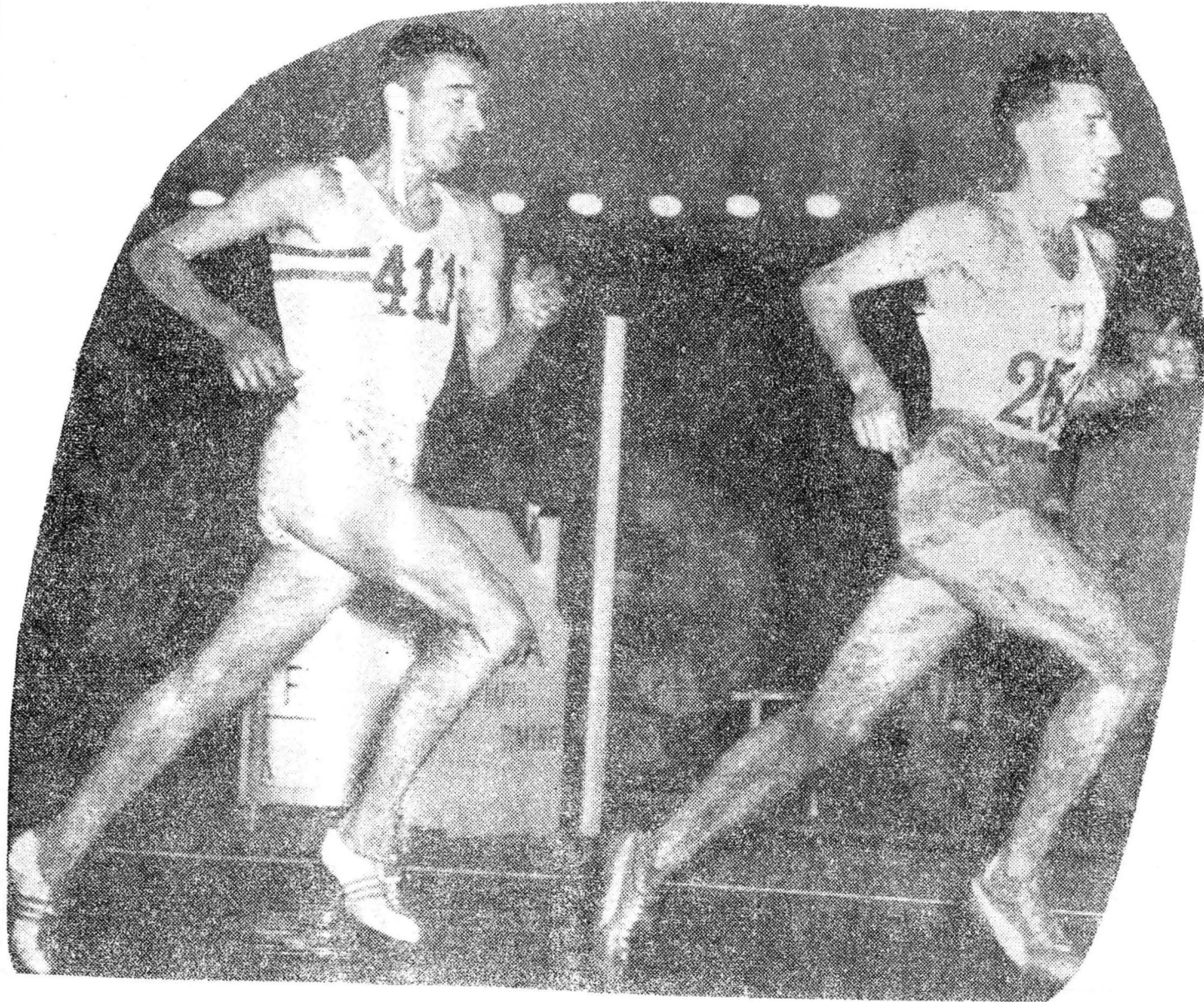
He'd lost track of his small, blue bus.

Pirie lent the vehicle to a party of eight Empire Games athletes and he told Norris McWhirter "I haven't heard from them for several days now."

Pirie was hoping that the bus would turn up by the time the championships opened—"I'll heave a sigh of relief when I see it arrive, having crossed the ferry from Denmark in one piece."

The driver was expected to be master miler Herb Elliott and his "crew" included David Power, the Empire six-mile and marathon champion; Murray Halberg, the New Zealander who won the three miles at Cardiff; and two famous girl athletes, Norma Thrower and Betty Cuthbert.

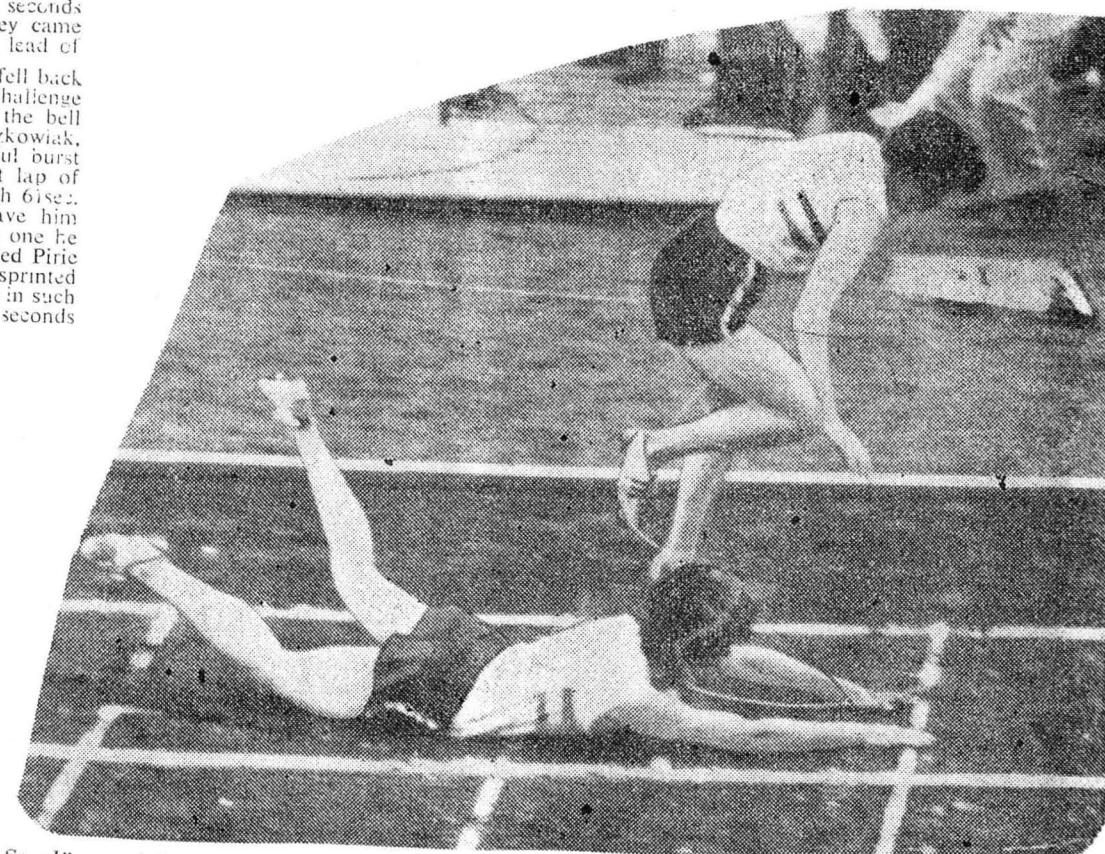




It was still raining steadily when the 5,000 metres runners were sent away. The track was so flooded that the race was run in the third lane, the start being some 12 yards before the eventual finishing line. The Poles Krzyszkowiak and Zimny dominated the race from the third lap onwards, and were on their own for the last 600 metres. The slim Zimny did all the pacing for Krzyszkowiak, and though the Frenchman Bernard led at the end of the seventh and eighth laps the only serious challenge came on the back straight of the ninth, when Clark attempted to break away.

The ninth lap was nearly three seconds faster than the eighth, but as they came past the main stand Clark had a lead of only two yards on the Poles. He fell back on the eleventh, leaving Pirie to challenge before he, too, was broken. At the bell Zimny was a foot in front of Krzyszkowiak, but the latter unleashed a powerful burst with 250 metres to go and a last lap of 64.6sec, on the outside track (worth 61sec, approximately for 400 metres) gave him another gold medal to add to the one he won in the 10,000 metres. Clark led Pirie on the final bend, but then Pirie sprinted past to take third place. The times in such weather were worth at least 10 seconds faster.

#### Women 400 metres



Storlöparen Gordon Piries maka Shirley stupar i finalen på 400 m. Landsmaninnan Moira Hisco som tog bronset kollapsade efter mållinjen och fick bäras ut på bår. Hon kunde inte delta i segerceremonin, men repade sig sedan.





TOP MAN.—Jubilant Herb Elliott is chaired by fellow-athletes, among them Gordon Pirie (LEFT) after his best-ever 1,500 metres at Gothenburg.

Britain's D. A. G. Pirie won the 5,000 metres in 13min 51.6sec.

D. Power, Australia's Gold Medal winner of the six miles and marathon at the Empire Games, led at the 2,000 metres mark, but could not keep up the pace and dropped out after 4,000 metres.

#### Mrs. Pirie Runner-up

Miss Betty Cuthbert (Australia) won the women's 400 metres in 54.4 seconds—only eight-tenths of a second outside the world record held by Russia's Miss Maria Itkina.

Britain's Mrs. Shirley Pirie was second in 55.5 seconds, with Miss May Hjertberg (Sweden) third. Other results:

## En „Pirie-kveld



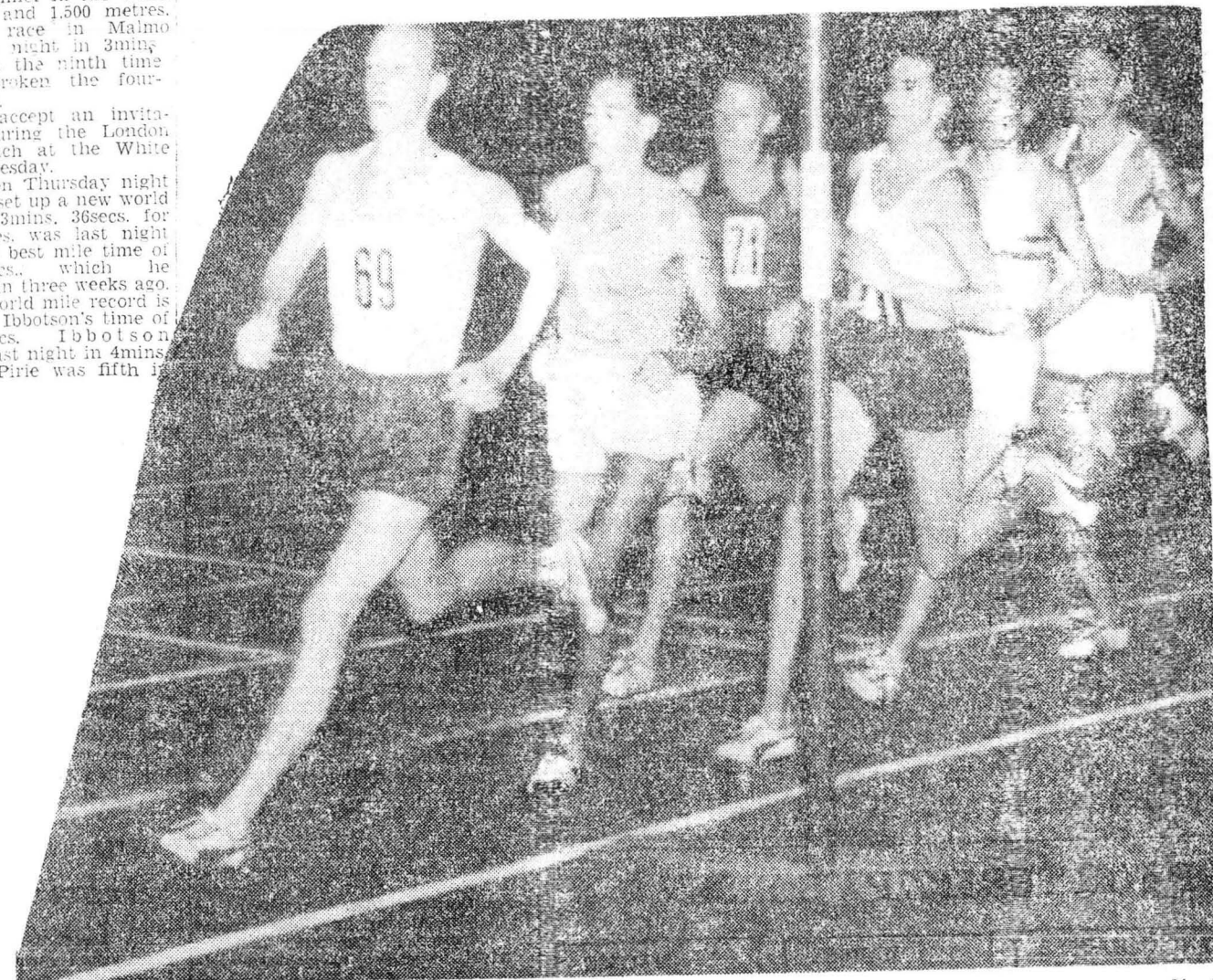
### ELLIOTT BREAKS 'BARRIER' FOR NINTH TIME

HERB ELLIOTT, of Australia, fastest runner in the world over one mile and 1,500 metres, won a mile race in Malmö (Sweden) last night in 3mins 58secs. It was the ninth time Elliott has broken the four-minute barrier.

Elliott may accept an invitation to run during the London v Warsaw match at the White City next Wednesday.

Elliott, who on Thursday night at Gothenburg set up a new world best figure of 3mins. 36secs. for the 1,500 metres, was last night well outside his best mile time of 3mins. 54.5secs., which he clocked at Dublin three weeks ago.

The official world mile record is Britain's Derek Ibbotson's time of 3mins. 57.2secs. Ibbotson finished sixth last night in 4mins. 6secs. Gordon Pirie was fifth in 4mins. 4.8secs.



engelska milen efter 800 meter. Närmast bakom farthållaren ses Waern, som efter sig har segraren Herb Elliott och Halberg, Nya Zeeland (71).

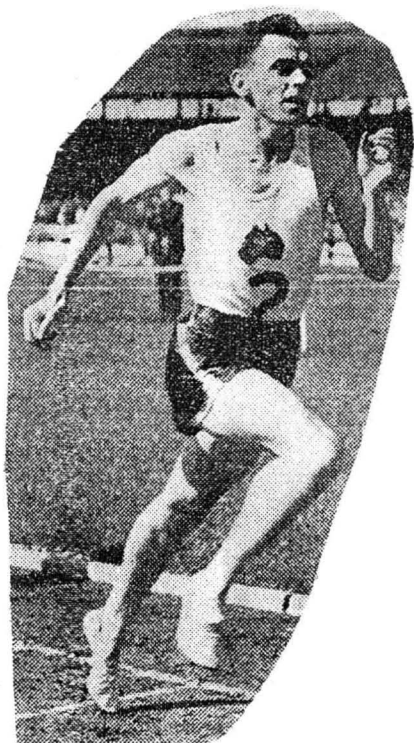


## FLOODED TRACK

In the 3,000 metres steeplechase, D. A. G. Pirie made an unexpected appearance, his first in this event, and in spite of his hurdling going to pieces after four laps he did well to keep reasonably in contact with the fast early pace (1,000 metres in 2min. 46sec.) of the Russian, Rhizschin, who won the silver medal at Stockholm. Rhizschin, possibly the best steeplechase runner the world has ever seen for economy in the clearance of hurdles, went away over the last 800 metres and his time of 8min. 54.6sec was an achievement on the flooded track. Pirie's time of 9min. 6.6sec. had only been beaten by eight British steeplechasers up to the beginning of this season. Mrs. Pirie (12.5sec.) came second in the 100 metres, but well behind Australia's Olympic champion, Miss B. Cuthbert



RZHISHIN (348) A MENACE



## PIRIE FIRST IN "5,000"

### SUCCESS OF SEGAL AND JOHNSON

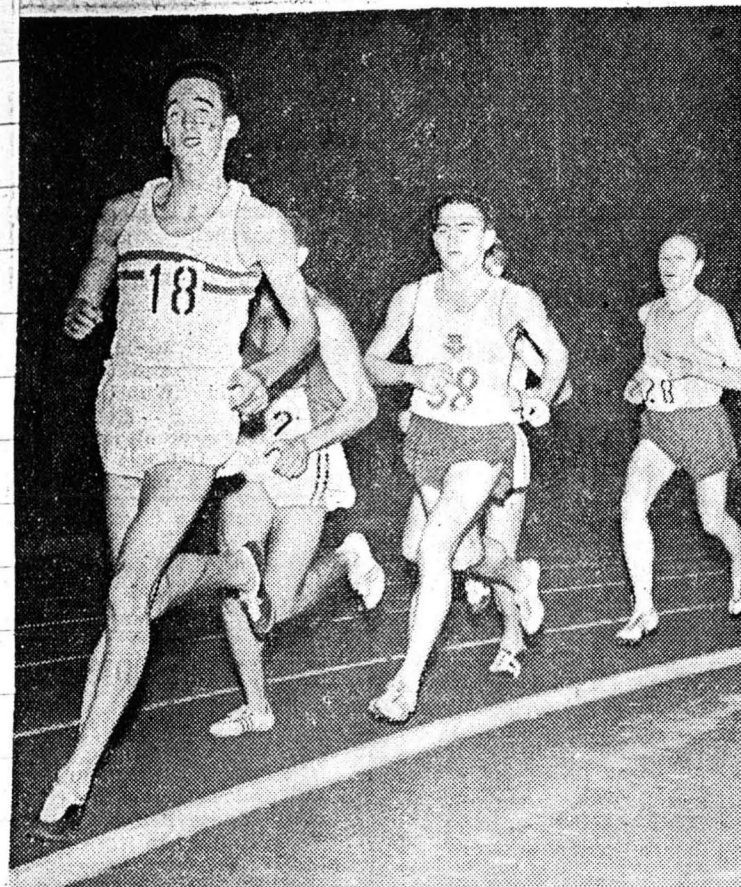
OSLO, Tuesday. Gordon Pirie, third in the European 5,000 metres last Saturday, won over the distance here to-night less than an hour after running sixth in the 1,500 metres.

The 1,500 metres went to Australia's Mervyn Lincoln in 3min 45.4sec. Pirie was less than two seconds behind.

In the longer race Pirie ran his rivals into the ground to win in 14min 3.0sec.

5000 meter: 1) Gordon Pirie, Storbritannia, 14.03.0. 2) Miroslav Jurek, Tsjekkoslovakia 14.04.2. 3) Zukov, Sovjet 14.06.0. 4) Pudov, Sovjet 14.12.0. 5) Stritof, Jugoslavia 14.12.8. 6) Tor Torgersen, Tjalve 14.17.0.

## Pirie i teten på 5000 m



5000-METEREN BLE IKKE det store publikumsnummer på Bislet igår. En utenlandsk trio var i særklasse. Bildet er tatt i begynnelsen av løpet. Pirie leder, fulgt av David Power, Australia (delvis skjult), hans landsmann Albert Thomas og Tor Torgersen. Helt til høyre Reidar Næss.

## Pirie keeps promise for Shirley

OSLO, Friday. GORDON PIRIE fulfilled a birthday promise to his wife here tonight and thrilled a 25,000 crowd in doing so. Running against Albert Thomas and Dave Power, the Australians, Pirie won the 5,000 metres in 14min. 15.8sec.

Shirley, whose 23rd birthday is today, had been told by Gordon that he would make her a present of the 5,000 metres win.

It was a long way outside the world record of 13min. 35.0sec. held by the Russian, Vladimir Kuc, but the result was a very popular one with the record crowd of 25,000.

A crowd which was brought to its feet as Pirie battled to a photo-finish with Albert Thomas, who had led for most of the race.

### Neck and neck

Pirie opened up a devastating sprint in the last bend, about 150 metres from the finishing line. He pulled ahead of Thomas and Dave Power, but the stubborn Australian also stepped up the pace and they pounded down the final 50 metres neck and neck, well ahead of the rest of the field.

It took a photo-finish to decide who broke the tape first.

## I'm quitting Britain —Pirie

GORDON PIRIE is quitting Britain — to settle in New Zealand.

The star runner, after winning a 5,000-metre race in Oslo last night, said: "I will run once more for England, then go."

land. He plans to emigrate before the end of the year.

His last race will be for the British team against France in the 2,000 metres steeplechase.

HAR GORDON FORLOVET SEG til sin kone? Hun har fødselsdag idag og Pirie har lovet henne at han skal forsøke å gi henne en verden rekord i fødselsdagsgave. Vi tror ikke engelskmannen skal mangle hjertra publikums side. Bildet er tatt hjemme hos familien Pories norske vertskap igår kveld.



BISLET-PUBLIKUMS STOF YNDLING fra Oslo-lekene i forrige uke, Gordon Pirie og hans frue Shirley bor for tiden hjemme hos Frank Steffensen på Larbertseter. Steffensen er identisk med Gamlebyens og BUL's tidligere mangejemper — hans frue Kari har også deltatt aktivt i friidrett, og bl. a. vært norgesmeister for BUL i 4x100 m stafett. Igår aftes hadde de to idrett

familiene et fødselsdagsselskap all enkelthet. Foranledningen var at fru Pirie fyller år idag. Ikke foregår som kjent det internasjonale stevne på Bislet, så blir det vanskelig tid til noen feiring. Og imorgen tidlig reiser Gordon og Shirley videre. Bløtkaken måt med andre ord fortæres igår. — Det sies at du vil gi din frue en ny verdensrekord på 5000 m som fødselsdagspresang, spør



**GOODBYE** Gordon Pirie — sensational to the last. Britain's most controversial athlete, off to New Zealand for good in two weeks' time, injured himself in training here and withdrew from today's 3,000 metres steeplechase. It was to have been his swansong with the British team.

France, so weak, met her Waterloo in this sun-kissed two-day meeting, the men beaten by 124 points to 88 and the women by 68 to 38.

Britain didn't lose a single track event in either match.

Seven years at the top, in which Pirie, 27, the lone wolf who has smashed records and argued his way round the world, ended with Pirie hunched in a stand in the Stade Colombes, while policeman Stan Eldon ran in his place.

### Warning

It was 10.30 this morning when Pirie, who has run only one steeplechase in his life, reported to team manager Les Truelove: "I jarred my right leg on Wednesday doing 20 practice water jumps. I tried three more last night, but today I can't walk very well."

Masseur Cliff Bould worked on the suspect calf muscle for over an hour. Then both he and John Wrighton, the 400 metres man, who is a Surgeon

PARIS, Sunday.

From  
**HARRY CARPENTER**

Lieutenant (R.N.), told Pirie: "If you run, you might do further damage."

While Shaw strode out to win for Britain, sore-footed hero Eldon made a gallant, if at times pathetically comic attempt to keep up with the field.

Second time round at the water jump, he splashed headlong into the water. Stumbling over hurdles, he came home last

PIRIE : « Je ne suis pas encore fini... »

Gordon Pirie est à Paris (en compagnie de sa femme) depuis quelques jours. Il s'entraîne régulièrement à l'INS où hier matin nous le vîmes alterner séance de sous-bois et fractionné (sur une piste de 250 mètres en sautoir de bois, par conséquent très dure, le Britannique courut 10 kilomètres en 33').

« Contrairement à ce que pensent plusieurs de vos collègues britanniques peu charitables, je ne me considère pas comme un homme fini, nous a-t-il dit. J'ai encore plusieurs années à consacrer à la course à pied. D'ailleurs n'ai-je pas couru cette année en 13' 51" au 5.000 mètres à Göteborg, meilleure performance mondiale de l'année ? »

Et Pirie, revenant à sa course de Colombes, devait ajouter : « Les obstacles du 3.000 m. steeple ne m'impressionnent guère. Excepté pourtant la rivière... » — G. E.



FAREWELL, ENGLAND. Gordon Pirie and his wife, Shirley, leaving Waterloo yesterday, first stage of their journey to New Zealand.

# I must be crazy!

**What makes Gordon Pirie run? We asked our Port Elizabeth correspondent, Herbert Langson, to put these questions to the Olympic runner now competing in South Africa.**

**HOW** many hours do you run a day when training before big events? How much sleep do you have then and how much time do you have for other things?

I run between two and three hours a day, sometimes more, when training for big events. But not all in one stretch. Usually I have two separate but similar work-outs. I have between 10 and 12 hours' sleep. Apart from doing my work in the normal way, I do not have time for anything else.

★

**How many hours do you run in training in a full athletic year and how far? How many races do you run on an average and how long do they take?**

When in full athletic training, I do on the average about one and three-quarter hours a day. I have run in one year 6,000 miles, but the total is between 3,000 and 4,000 on the average. I compete in about 50 races, of about 10 minutes each, a year.

★

**What do you think about on those long training runs? And during races?**

When I am in training I think about the rhythm of my running, and once in my stride and when I am training smoothly I think about other things — such as the films or plays I have seen. When I am racing I think only of the race. There are no other thoughts, because you cannot allow your mind to wander in a race.

★

**Don't you sometimes think on long training runs that you could be doing something more worthwhile and satisfying?**

People always ask me this question. About 5 per cent of the time I think 'I must be crazy doing this,' but this soon passes. I think it is worthwhile and I am prepared to make sacrifices. One of the rewards is travelling round the world.

★

**Why do you spend all those hours doing it? Do you enjoy it and like to win?**

You cannot get to the top unless you are prepared to work hard. Yes, of course I like to win, but I must also be prepared to lose if the others show better form. It is more satisfying to win. It is largely a question of one's personal mental make-up. If you have not got the will to win, why race?

★

**What do your employers feel about it? And your wife?**

I work for a banking concern which has specially released me for this journey to South Africa and New Zealand. I think that the time will come soon when I shall have to choose between my running and my work. That time is not here yet. My wife is very keen on athletics and has been so for 10 years now.

★

**What started you off in athletics? When will you stop? What is your greatest athletic ambition?**

My father was an international runner. There is therefore nothing very unusual in my being one. At school I played the usual sports — a bit of rugby and some cricket — and took part in athletics. I think it is good, physically and mentally, to have this exercise. It keeps you in tip-top shape. We must all do some physical activity. I am very fond of squash and when I do retire I shall take up some other form of exercise. My greatest ambition is to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games. Surely that is the ambition of every athlete?

★

**Why did you adopt your special puff-puff breathing method for running?**

The Press has called my method of breathing 'puff-puff.' The description has just stuck. I don't think it is much different from that of any other runner. It seems the same to me.



JOHANNESBURG.



### 4 Min. 8 Sec. Mile—in 87 Deg. F.

● Surrounded by cameramen, New Zealand's under-four-minute miler, Murray Halberg, sinks to the turf at the Wanderers yesterday after narrowly beating Harold Clark, the South African champion, with a time of 4 mins. 8 seconds.

The time (in a temperature of 82 degrees F.) was the fastest recorded in the Transvaal. Clark's time was 4 min. 9.1 sec.

Gordon "Puffing" Pirie, of England, disappointed the crowd of 7,000 by coming last in the field of five in the "schoolboy" time of 4 min. 36 sec.

### Wrong Shoes

ONE of the pleasant features of the visits of star sportsmen in ALL branches of sport in recent years has been the willingness to do some coaching.

Add GORDON PIRIE to this band of helpful men.

Although training for yesterday's mile at the Wanderers, he took time off to coach about 20 young runners of the club barely 48 hours before going to the start of his race with MURRAY HALBERG and HAROLD CLARK.

Pirie's comment: "Pity you haven't more top-class coaches in South Africa."

He spent a lot of time studying and advising on individual styles AND suggesting that some athletes have incorrect running shoes."

GRAHAMSTOWN.

### GORDON PIRIE BEATEN IN HALF MILE

Gordon Pirie was beaten over 880 yards at Grahamstown (Cape Province).

Winner was Angus Mackay, a Port Elizabeth policeman, who won by nine-tenths of a second in 1min. 56.4sec.

Mrs. Shirley Pirie won the 100 yards in 12sec. and the 220 yards in 26.8sec.—Reuter.

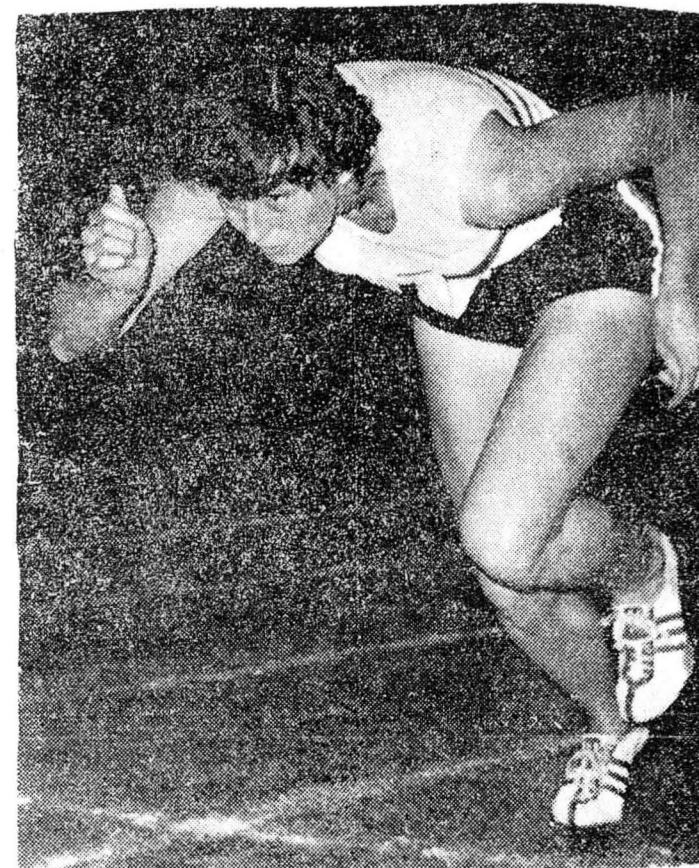


Gordon Pirie puffing through the woods.

### ATHLETICS

MIDDLEBURG (S. Africa).—3 miles: 1. Gordon Pirie (N.Z.), 15min. 38.5sec.; 2. B. Hutton (S.A.).

EAST LONDON.



Shirley Pirie gets off to an excellent start in her 440 yards race at the Jan Smuts Ground last night, in which she bettered the South African women's record for this event by 1.5sec.

### Sloping track

Mrs. Pirie's time of 59.4sec. bettered the South African record held by Mrs. Doris Johnson, of Port Elizabeth, by 1.5sec. but it will not be recognised because of a sloping track and in view of the fact that she finished second to three Grens schoolgirls, Lynette Oosthuizen, Erika Raath and Nellie van der Merwe, who ran in relay formation. Each covered 146 yards and they were credited with 56.3sec.

Mrs. Pirie also thrilled with her perfect style, in which she used both her legs and arms to splendid advantage.

Pirie lacked the arm action of both his wife and Halberg, but he showed the value of a perfect, powerful stride. Running completely erect, he made little use of his body. As in the case of the other two runners, however, there was no question of strain and after taking the lead 40 yards into the second lap, he steadily pulled away to win by at least 300 yards.

His lap times were: 63sec., 70sec., 69sec. and 65.3sec.

Robert Meecham, of Selborne, was second in 4min. 53sec., but he might have fared better had he not competed in an 880 yards event earlier in the evening.

Later, Halberg and Pirie ran for East London and Cambridge Harriers respectively in a medley team race. Pirie ran in the 880 yards leg, just shading Bussell in 2min. 1sec., and Halberg in the 220 yards. The event was won by East London A.

### The Piries win in South Africa

EAST LONDON (Cape Province). Saturday. — Gordon Pirie and his wife Shirley both scored victories in the floodlit athletics meeting here.

Gordon retained his unbeaten record on his South African tour when he won the mile in 4min. 27.3sec. and Shirley beat the South African women's record for the 440 yards, clocking 59.4sec. against the previous best of 60.9 by Miss Doris Morgan in 1936.

Mile, men: G. Pirie, 1; R. Meecham, 2; M. Warren, 3. Time 4min. 27.3sec.



DURBAN

Relaxing on beachfront



Relaxing on Durban's beachfront today before the international athletic meeting at King's Park tonight are the celebrated visiting runners Gordon Pirie (left), the world 3,000 metres record-holder, Murray Halberg, New Zealand's four-minute miler and Mrs. Shirley Pirie, a leading British quarter-miler. Here they are seen inspecting the colourful wares of a Zulu bead-seller.

Gordon Pirie, running on his own for most of the race, won the three miles in the Natal record time of 14min. 30.5sec. He beat Dawie Nortje (Johannesburg Harriers) by about 50 yards, with Marthinus Wiid (D.A.C.) third.

Gordon Pirie set a Natal All-Comers' record for three miles with a time of 14min. 30.5sec. in Durban.

## Halberg surprised at snub to Pirie

To the Sports Editor of The Star

SIR,—I was surprised by the statements in Friday's issue concerning the non-invitation of Gordon Pirie to compete in the Delville athletic meeting. It was intimated that this was because of his performance in the Wanderers meeting on November 15.

If the basis of invitation is on one race why was I invited after my showing at Bloemfontein? Gordon has not been beaten by a South African over the three miles this tour and has indeed run faster on two occasions than the best South African runner this season. On this evidence he would have added considerable interest to the Delville race.

### SETBACKS

The advantage I gained over Gordon by flying to the Union is reflected in the tour results. An injury sustained by Gordon in Paris two weeks before his two-week boat trip meant a month without any running. He was

of the Karoo after only six days' training.

Since his arrival in the Union he has trained hard and done his best in all races. In the 44 days to November 22 he ran 328 miles and raced eight times.

### AN INSULT

We travelled 4,020 miles by car in 14 days—Gordon driving over half that distance himself. On the days Gordon has been able to run he has averaged over eight miles a day. Would Pirie's critics care to try that when they are on holiday?

I consider this statement by an anonymous Southern Transvaal official an insult to an athlete of Gordon's calibre and reveals nothing but his athletic ignorance.—Yours, etc.,

## S. Transvaal snub Gordon Pirie

GORDON PIRIE has not been invited to compete with Murray Halberg in a three-mile invitation event in Germiston tomorrow.

A Southern Transvaal Athletic Association official said today: "We would like Halberg to run again and we have asked him to take part in a special event at the graded club meeting at Delville tomorrow."

"Pirie? No, we have not invited him, but I suppose he can take part as an individual if he wants to."

This snub to Pirie, holder of half a dozen world records at one time or another during the last few years, is probably the result of his poor performance at the Wanderers on November 15, when he finished last of a field of five in the mile event in which Halberg beat Harold Clark for first place.

### RECORD ATTEMPT

Pirie, on his way to New Zealand, has not been at his best in his races in South Africa. He said at the start that he was out of training, but even so many spectators have been disappointed. November 15.

BLOEMFONTEIN



Discussing the race that never came off? Magdel Myburgh (left) and Shirley Pirie were caught in this pose about half-an-hour before the 100 yards. Shortly after the sprint, in which Mrs Pirie ran a bad third, she withdrew from her eagerly awaited 440 yards race against Miss Myburgh.



Mrs Shirley Pirie running in the 100 yards. She came third and withdrew shortly afterwards from her quarter-mile duel with Magdel Myburgh—

Gordon Pirie coming down the straight in the final lap of the three miles. He won in 15min. 16.6sec.



Gordon Pirie, Britain's Olympic runner, who is on his way to New Zealand, won a 3-mile race in 15 min. 16.6 sec. at Bloemfontein.

In the three miles Gordon Pirie ambled to an easy victory over Pierre Kriel and Barend Hutton in the slow time of 15min. 16.6sec



- 2 p.m. -  
**TODAY**  
International Stars are  
competing in the  
**PIRIE-HALBERG**  
**ATHLETIC**  
**MEETING**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**GROUNDS**

Churchill Avenue, off Second  
Street Extension

GET YOUR LUCKY  
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME  
NOW!  
from FULTON & EVANS  
or BALLANTYNES  
to see the list of exciting  
events

THE FIRST AND ONLY  
MEETING OF ITS KIND  
IN RHODESIA  
(Regardless of weather)  
DON'T MISS IT!!

There is a BAR  
and REFRESHMENTS,  
HULA-HOOP RACES  
and music by the  
Caledonian Society  
PIPE BAND

Admission 2/6, Junior 1/-,  
Africans 1/-. Seating in the  
Stands 1/-.  
Others bring cushions, etc.

## Muleya "breaks" athletic colour bar in Rhodesia

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, Monday.

THE COLOUR BAR in Rhodesian sport dropped with a clang that reverberated throughout Africa on Saturday when Yotham Muleya, the 19-year-old Lusaka apprentice motor mechanic, beat a star-studded field to win the international three miles race at the Salisbury University ground.

His record breaking time for Rhodesia of 14 min. 48.3 secs. on a bad track in adverse conditions was clear proof that he is an athlete of considerable promise, and that from now on there can be no justifiable reason for barring him from competing at all athletic meetings in the Federation. He has proved himself by merit. He is eligible by class, not caste.

### GREAT POTENTIAL

As Gordon Pirie, the British Olympic runner, said after Muleya had beaten him by about 200 yards. "He's got great potential as a three miler. He would develop into a world class runner, and he's only 19."

Certainly Muleya shook the 4,000 crowd as he streaked round the track in what was probably the most exciting race ever witnessed in this country.

The crowd had gone along to see the two famous Olympic stars, Pirie and Murray Halberg, and

also this controversial African. Most critics thought the occasion would be too much for him, that he would crack under the strain.

### IN FINE SPIRITS

But the opposite happened whereas Pirie and his other chief threat, the Welsh international Chris Suddaby, appeared tense and nervous Muleya was relaxed and in fine spirits.

Acting under instructions from his coach, Mr. Bernie Evans, the president of the Northern Rhodesian African Athletic and Football Association, Muleya followed Pirie as he set a cracking pace.

They quickly pulled away from the rest of the field, and, with Muleya at his elbow, Pirie covered the first mile in 4min. 52 sec.

### TWO-MAN AFFAIR

It looked as if Pirie was trying to burn Muleya out, as he maintained the furious pace. It was now a two-man affair. Suddaby had dropped far behind.

During the sixth lap Pirie started to throw anxious glances over his shoulder. Muleya was still there, smiling and running with style and grace. He was well within himself. He was not crack-

SALISBURY,

Pirie, happy to race Africans, says

## Nonsense to ban teams because of colour bar

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, Wednesday.

GORDON PIRIE, the famous British middle-distance runner who arrived in Salisbury yesterday morning, described as "nonsense" the threats to ban South African and Rhodesian teams from competing in Empire or Olympic Games because of the colour bar.

Pirie, his wife, and the New Zealand miler, Murray Halberg, are in Salisbury to compete in a big athletic meeting at the University of Rhodesia and Nyasaland on Saturday. Asked to comment on the controversy which is raging through the Federation over the African runner, Yotham Muleya, Pirie said that he would

be perfectly happy to run against any African athlete.

"I believe that the first step has to be taken to bring Africans into athletics in this country. If Muleya is anywhere near as good as the Kenya runners we would be only too pleased to run against him," said Pirie.

Pirie refused to sign a protest against South Africa's athletic colour bar which was drawn up during the recent Empire Games. It contained the names of a number of famous sportsmen from every branch of sport. "I did not subscribe to the views expressed in that protest," Pirie told me.

### PROBLEMS

"There are a number of problems which make it difficult to bring Africans into the Games teams. It is nonsense to suggest that teams from Southern Africa should be banned from competing on these grounds."

The British runner, Chris Chataway, has recently made statements supporting a ban on Southern African teams. Immediately he read it Pirie wrote a letter expressing his disapproval of Chataway's views to a South African newspaper.

### DOUBTS OF STATUS

Meanwhile it was officially announced from Northern Rhodesia that Muleya has never run outside Northern Rhodesia. This follows the doubt on his amateur status. It has been alleged that Muleya has competed against members of the Harari Athletic Association who had won money prizes, and were therefore professionals.

It has been pointed out from Northern Rhodesia that Muleya is a fairly common name among Natives in the territory.

Mr. Ken Sprout, the secretary of the Mashonaland Amateur Athletic Association, said that he was waiting for clarification on the allegation from Northern Rhodesia. Pirie and Halberg, he pointed out, could not possibly run against Muleya if he was a professional.

### BEST DISTANCE

Told that Terry Sullivan, the Rhodesian and South African champion, would like to race against Muleya over a mile Mr. Evans said: "That is not his best distance. He is a three miler the best he has done for the mile is about 4min. 29.6sec."

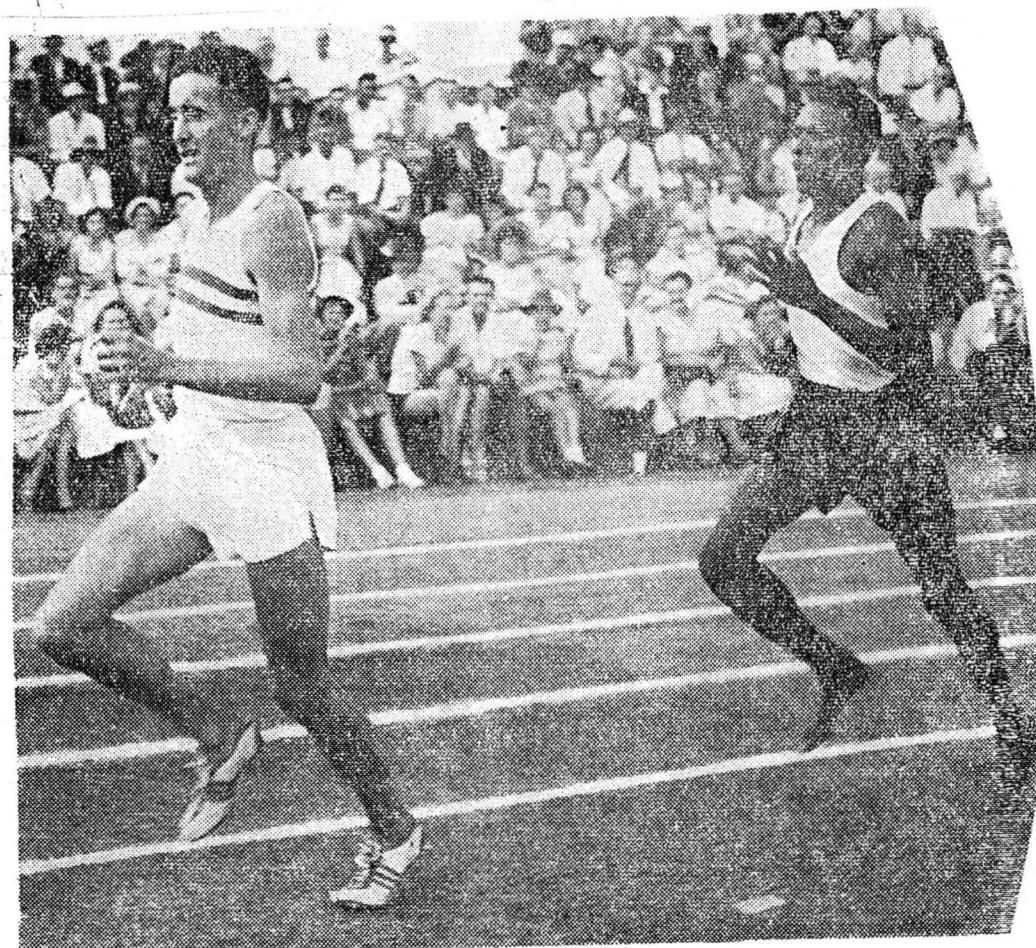
Reverting to the three miles race Mr. Evans added. "I knew Muleya had it in him to win. He ran under my instructions. I told him to stick with Pirie and Suddaby for the first mile and a half, and if he could stand the pace, to take the lead."

### CROWD RESPONDED

He also had high praise for the way the crowd responded to Muleya's fine race. "They were marvellous. It was great to see them stand up and cheer this boy. It was a sincere appreciation of a good runner."

And the fact that this Salisbury crowd did respond is a sure indication that from now on they will

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.



AN historic occasion in athletics south of the Sahara. For the first time an African lines up with Europeans in an international event—barefooted Muleya, from Northern Rhodesia. The picture is of the most dramatic moment in the race . . . Muleya, having trailed Gordon Pirie for eight laps, is moving up to overtake him almost effortlessly, and to win by 100 yards to tumultuous applause from Europeans and Africans, who swarmed over the track to carry him shoulder high in a frenzy of excitement.

## Native athlete's triumph in three miles



even more so because it was completely unexpected. Nobody could have pictured Pirie, former holder of the world record for the distance and present holder of the 3,000 metres record, being so mercilessly thrashed by an unknown bare-footed African. But it happened. And when the spindly-legged Muleya broke the tape there was pandemonium let loose.

It seemed as though half the Africans in Salisbury were there. They swarmed across the track, ignoring the race stragglers who had been lapped, and grabbed their hero.

He disappeared into a seething shrieking mob of black men, women and children.

### SHOULDER HIGH

Seconds later he broke the surface . . . a helpless, writhing figure being carried triumphantly shoulder-high across the ground.

But make no mistake. His was a great win; a win against all the odds—and a new Rhodesian record in 14min. 48.5sec.

Yet when it was all over and the excitement had died down, Muleya told me:—

"It was too slow for me at the start . . . far slower than I have been accustomed to running."

"But I knew when I passed Pirie I would win. It was wonderful."

And Pirie? No comment on his own running. But of Muleya he said:

"He ran a great race. With better training and coaching methods he could be in world class."

At the end, the Mashonaland Amateur Athletic Board presented Pirie and his wife Shirley with a plaque as a memento. But that plaque will not be going to New Zealand later this month with the Piries.

For Pirie immediately handed it to Muleya, whose black back he had seen receding into the distance during the last agonising mile.

Gordon "Puff - Puff" Pirie trailed home in a blinding rain-storm 100 yards—yes, a hundred yards—behind a bare-footed African unknown called Muleya in the three miles.

It will be a long, long time before I forget that sight. The tall pencil-thin figure in the shabby old green tracksuit, had turned into a glistening black athlete . . .

His spindly legs had scythed away the laps until, when he breasted the tape, it seemed for a moment that only one man was running.

## Long Shadow

From the beginning it had been Pirie versus Muleya, with former Welsh international Chris Suddaby there as a possible.

Pirie took the lead immediately, with the African, like a long, black shadow at his heels.

One lap . . . two laps . . . four . . . six . . . seven laps it was the same.

Near the end of the fifth lap Pirie glanced over his shoulder but the Dark Shadow was still there, his long, raking effortless stride keeping him just a yard and a half away.

Then the start of the eighth lap. Muleya passed the former world record holder, and from then on it was a procession.



# Wife of Official Says S.A. Athletes Should be Congratulated, But — Springbok Manager Agrees Partly With Criticism by Halberg, Pirie

**MR. CLARK SCHOLTZ**, manager of the Springbok athletic team at the Empire Games, agrees with two points that Gordon Pirie and Murray Halberg made last week before they left for New Zealand.

Making some caustic comments about their tour at Jan Smuts airport, the runners said that criticism of themselves was unfair as they could not be expected to approach four minutes for the mile every time they ran; they thought their programme too rugged, the administration of South African athletics petty, the organisation of Union track meetings dreary . . . and the prizes given at meetings "peanuts."

By **RON STEELE**

## Must Stop Hagglng

"We must make our athletic meetings more interesting otherwise we cannot attract the public," said Mr. Scholtz.

Mr. Scholtz agreed wholeheartedly with Pirie, Halberg's claim that there was too much pettyness in union athletics.

"We must stop hagglng and get stuck into the game" added Mr. Scholtz.

"But I don't agree with some of their other remarks" concluded Mr. Scholtz.

Mrs. Ellis, the wife of Mr. O. C. Ellis, chairman of the southern Transvaal officials association, was "disgusted."

"Maybe our athletes do run for 'peanuts.' They should be congratulated on this," she said.

"We give them a medal; surely this symbolizes as much as a gold watch or whatever they receive" she added.

Mr. Ellis slated both athletes.

"Pirie fell foul of British officials; now he comes here and tells us how to run our track meetings," he said.

"There is nothing wrong with our administration; South Africa can hold her own with any country in the world.

"I have officiated overseas and was at Cardiff and even there athletes wander around the field, and delays can always be expected

in time keeping, if there is a record."

"Did you think their programme was too cumbersome?" I asked.

"Nonsense," replied Mr. Ellis. "Chris Chataway, Tom Courtney and Kurt Nielson all had similar itineraries and they didn't complain."

"Why, Nelson ran in some of the most appalling conditions, but when he left the Union he said that his reception here had been the best ever," said Mr. Ellis.

And Mr. Ellis is quite right. Apparently Pirie and Halberg do not appreciate our open-arm hospitality.

WILL IT  
COME TO  
THIS?



Last week the world athletic stars Murray Halberg and Gordon Pirie said on leaving Jan Smuts airport for New Zealand that the prizes awarded at South African athletic meetings were "peanuts."

2 miles Race at Pomona, California.

United States of America.



BILL DELLINGER, recordman at two and three miles,

## Pirie Outclassed In U.S. Two-miles

Gordon Pirie, globe-trotting British athlete, finished a poor third in a record-breaking two-mile race at Pomona (California).

Winner was Lieut. Bill Dellinger (U.S.A.F.), in an American national record time of 8 min. 48.2 sec. Next came Jerome Walters, of Los Angeles, in 8 min. 49.4 sec. with Pirie third in 8 min. 59.3 sec.

Both Dellinger and Walters were inside the previous American national record of 8 min. 49.6 sec. set by Horace Ashenfelter in June, 1955.—Reuter.



## GORDON PIRIE is back in the old country from New Zealand for the second time—with a difference.

A week ago he ran a two mile race in California on his way here. It was reported that he had permission from the Amateur Athletic Association to compete.

First thing the A.A.A. officials knew about this "permission" was when they read it in a news agency message.

The A.A.A. are now holding an inquest into the California race. They will also discuss an approach Gordon Pirie made to the Russians last year before he went to New Zealand.

The A.A.A. understand Pirie asked the Russians to help him with his fare to Europe on the grounds that he will be running in Moscow in September.

Snag here is that if Pirie is not picked for the British team he just cannot run in Moscow.

In fact Gordon has overlooked other athletic details. He cannot even compete for Surrey in the Inter-Counties

## Gordon flies in



Smiling athlete Gordon Pirie, who flew into London Airport from New York with his wife, denied reports that he is coming back here for good. He said he hoped to do some running during his visit, which will last



IN what was only his second ten-mile road-race, Tony Towell, of Herne Hill Harriers, created a sensation on Saturday afternoon at the annual Kodak sports meeting, held at their sports ground at Wealdstone, by defeating Britain's Olympic runner, Gordon Pirie.

After a lap of the track Pirie left the ground in sixth place on the long course which lay by Bushey and Oxhey. He finished third. In second place came J. Merriman, Welsh international, running for Watford Harriers, who was second in the six-miles event at last year's Empire Games.

### Just fine

Towell quickly took the lead and held it throughout the race. Afterwards he told the Observer: "I didn't think it was too hot for running. It was just fine. I felt the first half of the race, but the last three miles I felt great."

Running in the event two years' ago at Kodak, Towell was placed second. His time on Saturday was 50 min. 17 sec. Merriman returned 50 min. 38 sec., and Pirie 51 min. 38 sec.

It just was not the Pirie family's day. First of all Gordon had difficulty in getting his car into the ground.

Then he came only third in the ten-mile event and his wife, although gaining a third place in her heat for the 220-yards ladies' open handicap, failed to get a place in the final.



## Pirie goes by road...third

GORDON PIRIE, who has been training 20 miles a day since his return to England, finished third in an open 10-mile road race at Willesden yesterday.

In a field of 89, Pirie was almost on the heels of 24-year-old Tony Towell (Herne Hill Harriers) after a mile. Then tiny Tony let go — and that was the last Pirie and the rest saw of him.

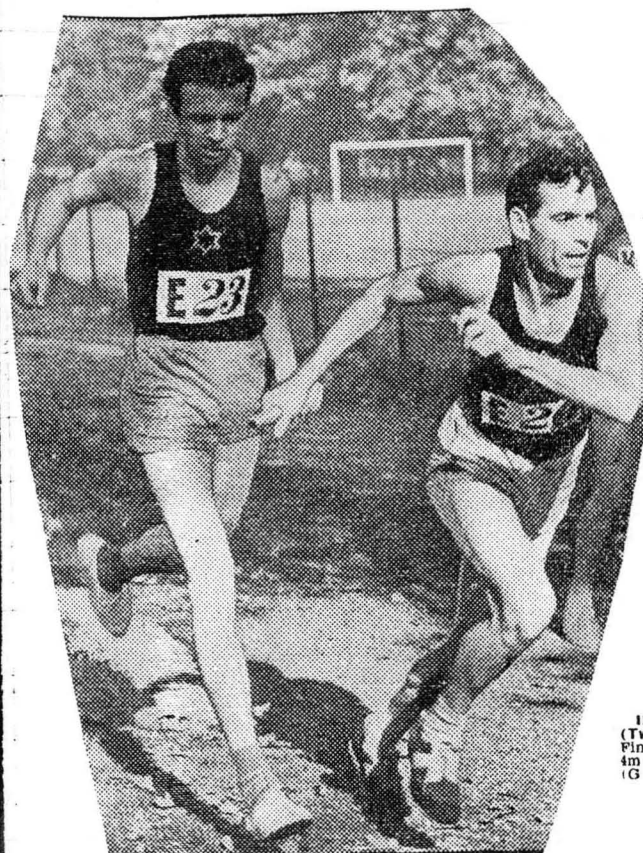
Towell won handsomely in 50 min. 38 sec. (against Pirie's 51-38).

"No complaints," said Pirie. "I just didn't have the speed." Why tackle 10 miles on the road at this stage of the track season? "I need stamina. Without it, I have no speed. I still think I can go near the three-mile track record."

His wife Shirley ran last in a field of six in the 220 yards handicap. She was backmarker on two yards.

KODAK SPORTS 10 mile ROAD RACE  
WEALDSTONE 1959.

POLLITT TROPHY 2 mile BRIGHTON 1959.



ATHLETICS  
INTER-CLUB PAARLAUF —  
(Two-man relay) — (Chiswick): 1,  
Finchley H. (E. Shirley, F. Secrest)  
4m 1.33yds; 2, South London H.  
(G. Pirie, J. Disley) 4m 1.32yds.



1st F. SHIRLEY and J. SHIRLEY  
4 miles 1.33 yards

2nd J. DISLEY and G. PIRIE  
4 miles 1.32 yards

POLLITT TROPHY 2 mile BRIGHTON 1959.

## Pirie's great win in 'farewell' race

A BIG surprise at the Brighton Athletic Club Pollitt Trophy meeting yesterday was the appearance of Gordon Pirie, who will not be racing again in England this summer. He stated that he leaves England today with his wife, Shirley, to stay in Germany and afterwards in Norway.



Pirie brought off a great win in the two-mile team race. After a close fight with Martin Hyman, of Portsmouth Athletic, the inter-counties six-mile champion and record holder, Pirie, back in his old devastating form, beat his rival into second place by six yards in 9min. 10.2sec., with Hugh Foord, the Brighton international, third.

He led South London Harriers to team victory with 14pts., Walton A.C. being second with 17, and Portsmouth A.C. third with 22.

These lads certainly snowed their seniors a thing or two. The seniors were last in their battle for the Pollitt trophy.

Six clubs competed—Cambridge Harriers, Portsmouth A.C., Walton A.C., Herne Hill Harriers, South London Harriers and Brighton A.C.—and several Olympic and international stars appeared.

Highlight of a crowded afternoon was the smooth and polished running of Gordon Pirie in the 2-mile team race, won by his club, South London Harriers.

Pirie quickly went into second position behind J. Avery (Walton), and looked to be running well within himself as he covered the ground with those long, eager legs.

Behind him were Martin Hyman (Portsmouth) and Brighton's Hugh Foord, but Pirie always looked as though he were saving something for the last lap.

So it proved. Hyman went into the seventh and eighth laps with a slight lead but Pirie closed up to his elbow in the back straight and in the face of a stiff breeze.

With about 150 yards to go Gordon shot past the Portsmouth man, accelerating with every giant stride. Now the spectators jumped to their feet cheering him on: this was the Pirie of old. Here was a finishing kick reminding us how this controversial athlete blazed his way into world class.

The first mile took 4min. 43sec., and the final time was 9min. 10.2 sec.

"This will be my only race in England this summer," Pirie told me. "I go to Germany tomorrow, then on to Norway. I think I'm in good form."

## Games '10,000'—then I quit, says Pirie

By TERRY O'CONNOR

GORDON PIRIE, who has been around so long that many people assume he must be finished, was standing with a group of athletes at the White City.

"Where are you living these days?" asked John Disley.

"In New Zealand," replied Pirie without a smile.

"No, I mean at the weekends," snapped back Disley with the speed he greets the tape.

"I am off to Norway for a few months on Sunday," said Pirie, as further proof that he has now changed his role from being the most-controversial to the most-travelled athlete. This is the second time he has returned from New Zealand.

### His Aim

I managed to pin Pirie down and discovered that his feet still itch to run but that he is forced to keep on the move.

"It is all a matter of car buying," he said. "If I stay here too long I must pay purchase tax. This would mean no car."

I asked Pirie whether he would be available to run for Britain if he ran good times and was chosen.

"I am going to run good times," says the man who has broken three world records in the past.

My aim is good performances over 10,000 metres, with a few 5,000-metre races mixed in. This year I am not going to make the mistake of running

made the mistake of running more than 100 times.

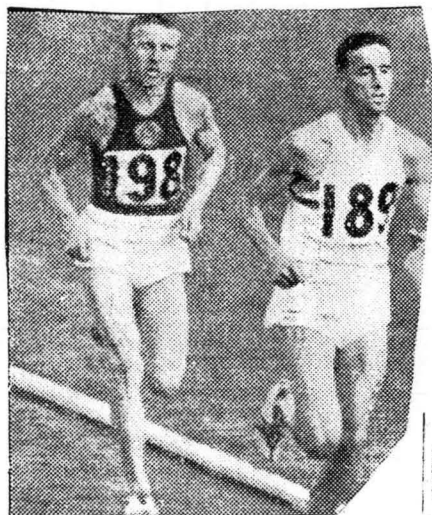
"I was going better in training than in 1956 but not producing the times on the track. Also it was a mistake to concentrate too much on speed work at the cost of building up stamina."

"After the summer I intend returning to England for a full cross-country season to build up for the 10,000 metres at the Olympic Games in Rome. Then I will retire, win or lose, and start a new life in New Zealand."



# NORWAY

# 1959



July 30<sup>th</sup> ..... OSLO.

5,000 METRES

1st. BOLOTNIKOV.	USSR	13min 56secs
2nd TORGERSØN.	NORWAY	14min 17.2secs
3rd PIRIE	BRITAIN	14min 29.4secs

**ATHLETICS**  
OSLO (Norway) — 5,000 metres:  
1. P. Bolotnikov (Russia), 13m  
56s.; 2. T. Torgersen (Norway); 3.  
G. Pirie (G.B.) 14m. 29.4s.  
Women's 100 metres: 1. R. Buer  
(Norway) 12s.; 2. S. Pirie, 12.2s

July 3<sup>rd</sup> ..... TRONDHEIM.

3,000 METRES

1st. PIRIE.	8min 20.8secs
2nd TORGERSØN.	8min 21.6secs



## PIRIE DOUBLE

TRONDHEIM, Norway, Satur-  
day — Britain's Gordon Pirie won  
the 3000 metres in 8min. 20.8sec. at  
an athletics meeting here. Pirie's  
wife, Shirley, won the women's  
100 metres in 12.6sec.

GORDON PIRIE has been  
running in Scandinavia



July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> OSLO International Games

5,000 METRES

## Pirie fourth

Gordon Pirie (Great Britain)  
finished fourth in a 5,000 metres  
event at an international ath-  
letics meeting in Oslo, Reuter  
reports. Winner was Tom  
Torgersen (Norway) in 14  
minutes 15 seconds. Pirie  
clocked 14 minutes 29.8 seconds.

1st. TORGERSØN.	NORWAY	14min 15secs
2nd JUREK.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	14min 15secs
3rd PAVELKA.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	14min 25secs
4th PIRIE.	BRITAIN	14min 29.8secs



3,000 METRES

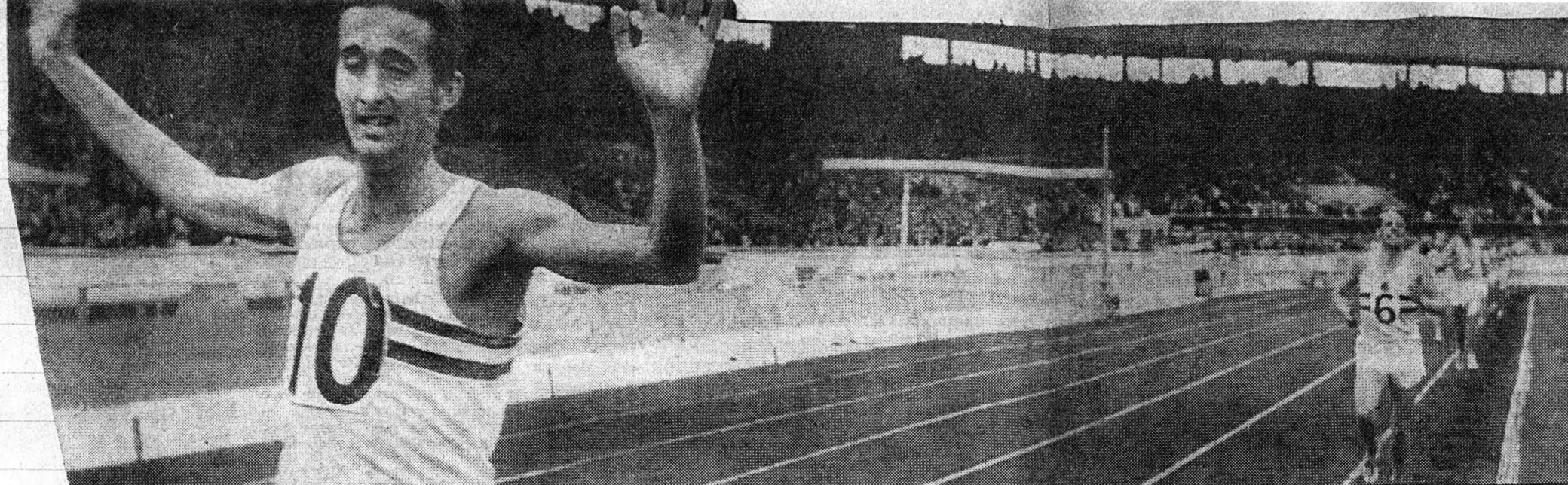
1st PIRIE.	BRITAIN	8min 10.4secs
2nd TORGERSØN.	NORWAY	8min 11.0secs
3rd PAVELKA.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	8min 15.6secs

**ATHLETICS**  
BERGEN (Norway) — 5,000 metres:  
G. Pirie (G.B.), 14m. 29.8s  
Women's 400 metres: Mrs. S. Pirie  
57.7s

July 12<sup>th</sup> ..... BERGEN ..... 5,000 METRES

1st PIRIE	BRITAIN	14min 29.8secs
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# EXILE PIRIE JERKS UP BRITAIN

**A** NEW, relaxed, sweet-tempered Gordon Pirie surged back to London's White City yesterday as a dramatic two-mile conqueror . . . and 35,000 victory-starved Britons roared a warm "Welcome." Pirie, flown specially from Norway for the invitation event, won with a lot to spare in 8min. 39sec. his second fastest for the distance.

He was followed home by another of the old White City personality gang, Derek Ibbotson, in 8min. 41.6sec.

These two—recently rejected by the British selectors because of "lack of pace"—jammed the crowds back to the White City. They also delivered a knock-out blow to the young, ambitious middle-distance men of Britain.

A.A.A. three-mile champion Bruce Tulloh did not finish; inter-counties three-mile champion Stephen James finished last; and sturdy, fag-puffing Kevin Gilligan, of Oxford University, managed fifth place.

Pirie cooed in delight: "I would certainly like to run for Britain again."

The other 27-year-old "old-

## SAM LEITCH reports a great come-back

timer," Ibbotson, said coyly: "I'm really delighted."

Both must go into Britain's side against Poland at the White City on August 14-15. From what I heard back stage both will be included.

The British Amateur Athletic Board selected the team on Sunday, but last night Leslie True-love, British team-manager, Jack Crump, secretary, and Pat Sage, A.A.A. team-manager, held an emergency meeting.

Object? Almost certainly to get Pirie definitely and Ibbotson, if possible, into the Polish match.

For two powerful reasons they should be back. They are still Britain's best, and, look how they packed in the crowds. Yesterday's attendance was more than double that of Saturday.

## READY TO LOSE

The two-mile race was not included in the two-day match between Britain and West Germany, which the German men won by 117-95 points and the British girls won 64-51.

But the emphatic defeat of our men seemed to be tempered by the smart return of Pirie, who is working in an Oslo bank and "having my most relaxed season for years."

"Running today has cost me three days wages," he said. "But I don't mind losing some more to run against Poland."

Pirie came to the White City scared. "After reading how Ken Wood got the bird, I wondered what would happen to me if I did badly."

There was a hum of expectancy as the long legs warmed up. The rumble became a roar as he stormed into the lead on the second bend, lost it, but kept in a cute threesome of Ibbotson, Peter Clark and Pirie for the last mile.

Up the back straight, with Ibbotson in the lead, Pirie unleashed a great surge 80 yards from the tapes and won by six yards. He looked capable of a far faster time.

A superb piece of team-work by policeman Stan Eldon and that great-hearted, little Welshman John Merriman, carved up the Germans in the six-mile event.

Both switched the lead devastatingly, "killed off" the tall Xaver Hoger, and after 20 laps left him trailing. Eldon won with a sprint finish.

## Pirie's knack

**N**EWs that Gordon Pirie will be competing at London's White City on August Bank Holiday Monday came as a surprise even to his mother.

Pirie has been working in an Oslo Bank, with plenty of opportunities for training. I would not be in the least surprised if he beat John Anderson's fastest two-mile time of the year of 8min 40.0sec.

Pirie has a remarkable knack of never missing a year without a sensational performance.

Talking of his Olympic Games 10,000 metres prospects, Stan Eldon told me the other day: "I never write off Gordon Pirie. He's one of the most dangerous rivals anyone could have."

**G**ORDON PIRIE cannot expect a hero's return when he runs in the invitation two miles at London's White City tomorrow.

At present working in a bank in Oslo, Pirie has failed to put up one big performance since returning to Europe this season.

On the evidence of his 5,000 metres race on Thursday when he finished third, 300 yards behind the Russian Volot Likov, Pirie has no chance in the two miles. Then he is due to meet such outstanding British runners as Ibbotson, Tulloh, Clark, Gilligan and James.

Pirie's inability to find his form must be tragic for a man

who has been running in world class for eight years.

When he was last in London, Pirie told me "I am concentrating on the 10,000 this season in preparation for the Olympic Games."

Pirie, however, has yet to run his first 10,000 metres race this summer. What's more, his 5,000 metres time on Thursday of 14min. 29.4sec. does not indicate he is anywhere near ready for a class distance race.

FLASH GORDON is back.

Here's the familiar puff-puff style and, at the end of it, a satisfied smile as he breaks the tape.

★ ★ ★

The rest? A long way behind as Pirie wins the invitation two-mile at London's White City.

In the distance behind him you can see his old racing rival, Derek Ibbotson. Britain's new boys were nowhere.

★ ★ ★

Bill Jones took this special **Herald** picture.

2 mile International Race.

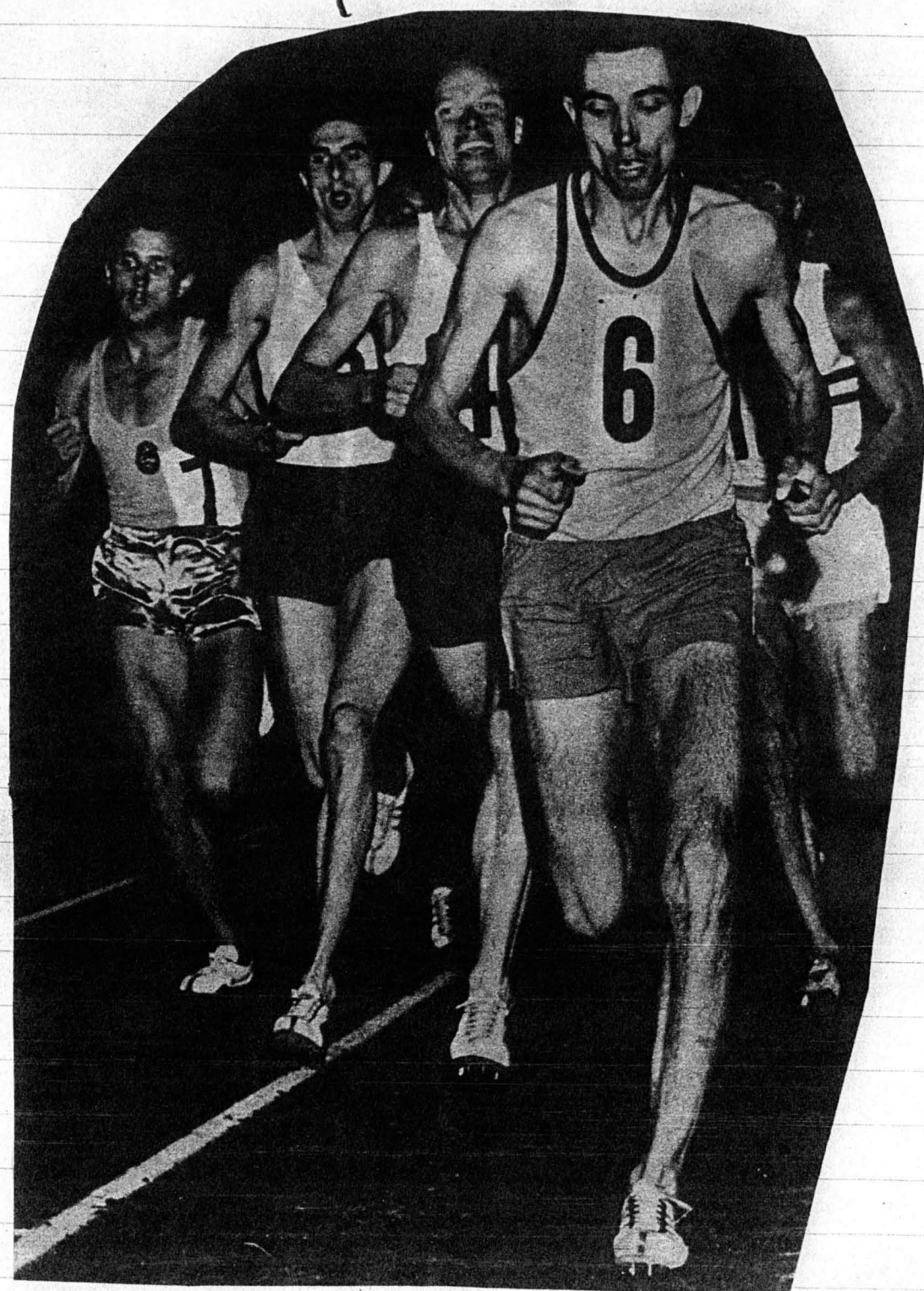
White City.

August Bank Holiday 1959.





# 1,500 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE AT GÖTHEM BURG, 1959



1st	WAERN (4)	SWEDEN	3mins 40.7secs	(SWEDISH RECORD)
2nd	LEWANDOWSKI (5)	POLAND	3mins 41secs	(POLISH RECORD)
3rd	JAZY (6)	FRANCE	3mins 42secs	(FRENCH RECORD)
4th	BERMAN (7)	FRANCE	3mins 42.3secs	
5th	PIRIE (2)	BRITAIN	3mins 46.4secs	
6th	HOLMSTRAND (3)	SWEDEN	3mins 46.8secs	
7th	GORDON (1)	BRITAIN	3mins 47secs	

# 2,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE AT UDDEVALLA SWEDEN 1959

2,000 m: 1) D. Waern, Örgryte, 5.05.6, 2) S. Lewandowski, Polen, 5.07.2, 3) G. Pirie, England, 5.11.4, 4) A. D. Gordon, d.o., 5.14.4, 5) G. Snygg, Ymer, 5.18.4, 6) M. J. Palmer, England, 5.20.4, 7) K. Lundqvist, Borås, 5.29.6, 8) R. Lindgren, Ymer, 5.30.0, 9) L. Mattsson, Örient, 5.32.0, 10) R. Gottfridsson, IFK Göteborg, 6.10.0.



Waern och Lewandowski har hjälpt varandra till fina tider. Här ses de båda från sin duell i Stadion för en tid sedan då Lewandowski blev dömt som segrare.

# 3,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE KARLSTAD 1959

3,000 m: 1) G. Pirie, England, 8.15.8; 2) A. Hamarsland, Norge, 8.15.9; 3) A. Stammen, Norge, 8.16.1; 4) T. Torgersen, Norge, 8.18.5; 5) L. Helander, Linnea, 8.20.6; 6) B. Källevåg, Mjölby, 8.20.6; 7) B. Jönsson, Eksjö, 8.24.0; 8) S. Kaufeldt, Tureberg, 8.32.7; 9) I. Nygaard, Norge, 8.34.2; 10) G. Wackerfeldt, Viking, 8.38.2; 11) O. Adalsson, Motala, 8.48.0; 12) G. Johansson, Örient, 8.49.0.

# 3,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE SKOVDE 1959

3,000 meter blev en kamp mellan Gordon Pirie och Bertil Källevåg, sedan Lennart Johansson dragit upp farten med 4,01 på 1.500. Pirie övertog ledningen och engelsmannen vann på sin briljanta spurt. Pirie fick fina 8.08,7, långt under Källevågs gamla banrekord, och den sistnämnda var bara tre sekunder efter.

3,000 m: 1) G. Pirie, England, 8.08,7, 2) B. Källevåg, Mjölby, 8.11,8, 3) I. Jönsson, Mariestad, 8.45,6, 4) G. Kjellman, Ymer, 8.46,3, 5) B. Flink, Stensjön, 8.47,0, 6) B. Jönsson, Lidköping, 8.50,0.

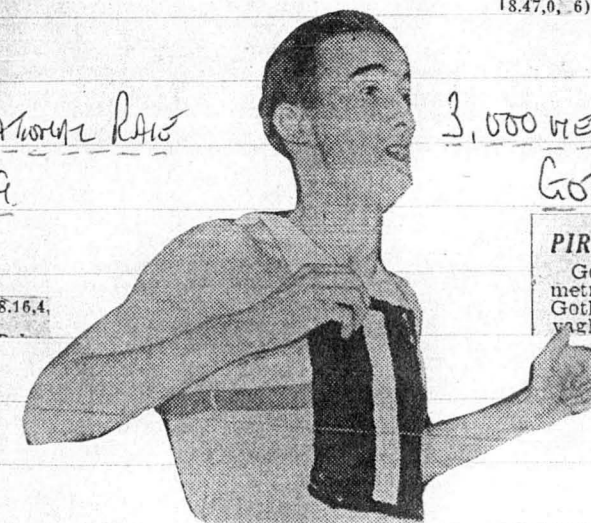
# 3,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE HÄGERSTAD 1959

3,000 m: 1) G. Pirie, England, 8.16,4, 2) M. J. Paller, England, 8.30,6.

# 3,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE GÖTHEM BURG 1959

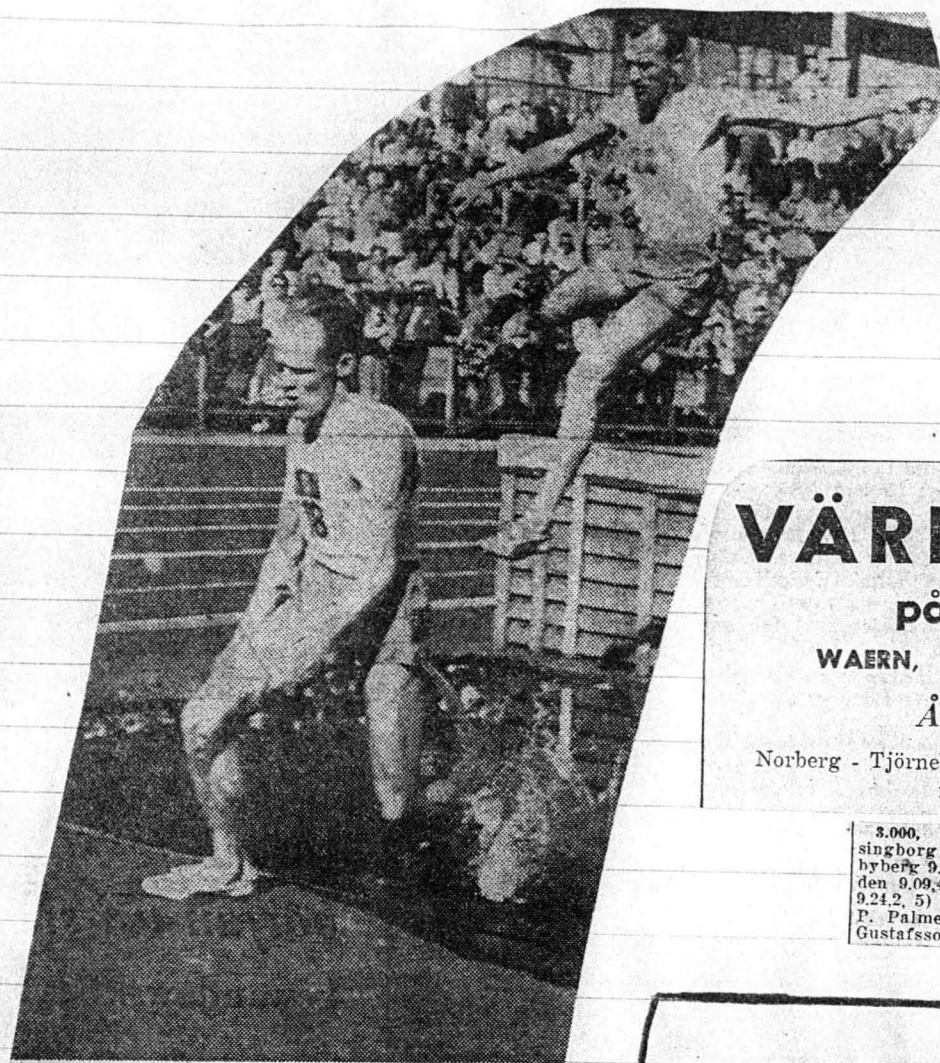
## PIRIE WINS 3,000 METRES

Gordon Pirie won a 3,000-metre race in 8min. 21.4sec. in Gothenburg. Second was Källevåg, of Sweden, in 8.22.6.





# 3,000 METRE STEEPCHASE STOCKHOLM 1959



Hansa Norberg leder i hinderloppet före Tjörnebo,

## VÄRLDSELITEN

på 1500 meter

WAERN, LEWANDOWSKI, VALENTIN

Årets hinderlopp:

Norberg - Tjörnebo - Tedenby - Åke Jansson - Helander  
mot Pirie och Palmer.

3,000, hinder: 1) G. Tjörnebo, Häl-  
singborg 9.08.2, 2) H. Norberg, Sund-  
byberg 9.09.0, 3) A. Jansson, Kävlinge-  
den 9.09.4, 4) L. Helander, IF Linnéa  
9.24.2, 5) G. Pirie, England 9.24.8, 6) M.  
F. Palmer, England 9.27.0, 7) L. E.  
Gustafsson, Mälarhöjden 9.34.2.

## GORDON PIRIE WITHDRAWS FROM THE BRITISH TEAM

By TERRY O'CONNOR

GORDON PIRIE has withdrawn from Britain's athletic team to meet Poland at the White City this week-end as he states: "I cannot afford loss of earnings for absence from work in an Oslo bank."

Pirie is at present living in Norway and working as a bank clerk on a day-to-day basis at 35s. a day.

He agreed to run against Poland after his fine two-mile victory at the White City on August Monday.

Pirie has twice emigrated to New Zealand, but is back in Europe to prepare for the Olympic Games in Rome next year. He is living in Oslo because it saves him tax.

The British Amateur Athletic Board have nominated Mike Bullivant (Derby and County A.C.) to run in Pirie's place.

### They'll Be Wary

Pirie's withdrawal might cost him a trip to Moscow and Helsinki next month. Without evidence of Pirie's fitness over six miles the selectors will be wary of naming him for a distance event against the Russians.

In a statement to-day, the Athletic Board said: "Having first accepted the invitation, Pirie has informed the board that, with reluctance, he felt it necessary to withdraw. He finds he cannot afford the loss of earnings which absence from his work would entail. He also

## PIRIE FLAYS SELECTORS

BRITAIN'S selectors make themselves look ridiculous, said Gordon Pirie last night. He is not in the team nominated yesterday to meet Russia in Moscow next month.

"I was hoping to be picked for the 5,000 metres," admitted Pirie, fastest man in the world over this distance last year. "My two-mile run in London this month proved I'm in better form than 12 months ago."

"I suppose I'm out because I didn't run against Poland. The selectors didn't say that the real reason I withdrew was because I was picked for a distance I had not raced over for TWO years."

"Anyhow, our six-milers were better than Poland's. But I think I would be useful over 5,000 metres in Moscow," said Pirie.

Pirie wound up: "If they had the sense to run Derek Ibbotson in

the mile against Poland, a distance which everyone knows is his best, and put me in the three miles in his place, we would have won that match—not lost it."

● Derek Johnson, who also withdrew from last week-end's meeting, is also missing from the team for Russia.



There's hero worship in this little girl's eyes as Gordon Pirie signs her brother's autograph album at Caterham on Saturday.

## BEAGLES' BIG DAY

### SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS RETAIN RELAY TITLE

Described by many of the onlookers as the greatest sporting event in the history of Caterham, the annual road relay race promoted by Surrey Beagles on Saturday certainly provided the local populace with a unique opportunity to witness some of this country's star distance runners in action within a stone's throw of their front doors. Gordon Pirie, recently returned to this country from Norway, and Frank Sando were each making their first appearance in the race, in which they were also joined by internationals Hugh Foord, Laurie Reed and Tony Llewellyn. A record entry, and a new course helped to make the race, the ninth in the series, the most successful yet. Forty-two runners, representing 23 clubs, started out from Westway on the first of six laps of a little over two miles which took the runners through Town End into Whyteleafe-road, then through Ninehams-road and via Addison-road and Money-road back to Westway.

#### Walton take the lead

The holders, South London Harriers, were looking for their fifth successive win and it was soon apparent that their closest rivals in recent years, Walton A.C. were going to offer a very stern challenge. Their first runner, Bob Roath, who last year ran the fastest lap in this race, set off at a scorching pace and gave his club a 5 seconds lead over Brighton A.C. at the end of the first stage. Aylesford Paper Mills were only 1 second behind, while South London Harriers gave early warning that they intended to be well in the picture by taking 4th place in 10.07 through Colin Wilson. At this time their B team was 7th through P. Barber, hotly pursued by the second Walton team. Mitcham were then 9th followed by Redhill and Reigate and supporters of the promoting club were delighted to see their star distance runner, Ken Sheppard, in 16th place, only 40 seconds behind the leaders. Croydon Harriers were also given a good start by G. Neal, who was 18th in 10.41.

Aylesford Paper Mills took the lead during the second stage, and Mitcham A.C. through an outstanding run by W. Pawsey (9.58) came up to second place. Walton slipped to 3rd while S.L.H. maintained their place with Roly Langridge taking 10.21. L. F. Clark in 10.17 brought S.L.H. B into 5th place closely followed by Brighton and Walton B. On the 3rd leg South London took the lead for the first time in the race through John Pegley (10.05) who handed over just 6 seconds ahead of Walton. From then onwards it was just a question of how much S.L.H. could increase their lead by, for with their big guns still to come it was then fairly obvious that they were unlikely to be beaten. Laurie Reed with a fast lap of 9.58 took his club into a clear lead of 26 seconds by the end of the fourth stage which was held by R. Darchambaud with a time of 10.06, and the issue was put beyond all doubt on the final stage by Gordon Pirie who came home with almost a minute in hand over Walton A.C. after setting up the fastest lap time of 9.49. Walton were comfortably ahead of Brighton who had been put back well into the race by international Hugh Foord, who on the fourth lap achieved the second fastest time of the day—9.52.

#### Beagles in 29th place

The success of their senior team helped

man had failed to arrive. The South London C team achieved the distinction of finishing in front of all except one of the B teams in the race, and in fact finished well ahead of many first teams from smaller clubs. Such is the depth of reserves possessed by this club. Their D team finished 24th out of the 34 teams who completed the course.

Of the other local teams taking part, Croydon Harriers did well to take 11th place, Mitcham A.C. held on to take 4th place, Redhill and Reigate A.C. took 13th position. Epsom and Ewell H. disappointed with 27th, and the promoting club, Surrey Beagles, failed to take advantage of the sound start which they were given, and eventually finished in 29th place.

After the race the trophy and prizes were presented to the winning teams by Mr. W. C. Young, hon. secretary of the Surrey Playing Fields Association. After complimenting the Surrey Beagles on the success of the event he reminded the assembled athletes that his organisation was there to help them, and would look favourably upon reasonable requests for financial assistance in providing facilities and equipment.

Results: 1, S.L.H. A (C. Wilson 10.07, R. Langridge 10.21, J. Pegley 10.05, L. Reed 9.58, R. Darchambaud 10.06, G. Pirie 9.49; total time 60.26; 2, Walton A.C., 61.24; 3, Brighton A.C., 61.54; 4, Mitcham A.C., 62.34; 10, S.L.H. C, 64.13 (J. Prince 11.01, F. D. Gilson 10.12, N. Dugate 10.34, M. Laker 10.41, D. Robertson 10.36, J. Lyne 11.09); 11, Croydon H., 64.51 (G. Neal 10.41, B. Proctor 10.35, A. Glover 11.15, M. Collis 10.35, M. Caudwell 10.57, A. Fox 10.48); 13, Redhill and Reigate, 65.38; 21, Mitcham B, 67.45; 24, S.L.H. D, 69.21 (M. Malton 11.15, L. Brace 10.58, J. Benson 10.56, D. Musto 12.50, B. Mottram 11.26, S. Skelton 11.56); 27, Epsom and Ewell H., 70.47; 28, Croydon B, 70.52; 29, Surrey Beagles, 71.00 (K. Sheppard 10.37, J. Gridley 11.53, A. Goodwin 12.44, M. Champness 12.49, A. Howland 11.44, K. T. Carter 11.13).

### Pirie's Fastest Lap

South London Harriers, with Gordon Pirie putting up the fastest individual time of 9.49.



# Bashing Pirie shows form that can win Olympic medal

**G**ORDON PIRIE, now 28 but seemingly running back into his old form, served notice at the White City, London, last night that it will take a lot to beat him in next year's Olympic 5,000 metres.

In the London v. Stockholm match he outpaced a strong three-mile field with a last-furlong dash which took him to the tape two yards ahead of British champion Stan Eldon in 13min. 25sec.

It was Pirie's fastest three-mile race. Thirty thousand fans acclaimed his triumph, even louder than they did the 5min. 59.7 mile run by Sweden's Sergeant Dan Waern. Cheers for Waern were tempered by the depressing thought that England could not get a man in the first six.

The three miles was a thrilling race fought out virtually in the last mile by four men—Pirie, Eldon, Martin Hyman, and East German Gerhard Honicke.

All four at some time shared the brunt of the pace work. At the end of two miles a sudden burst by Honicke looked dangerous until the three Englishmen swept past him. Hyman was in the lead as they came to the bell.

## No doubt

There was never any doubt about the result once Pirie got into his stride about 300 yards from home. His legs seemed to eat up the yards as he went striding out in front, almost like a furlong runner.

Eldon made a determined bid in the home straight, but Pirie was too far in front and going too well for him.

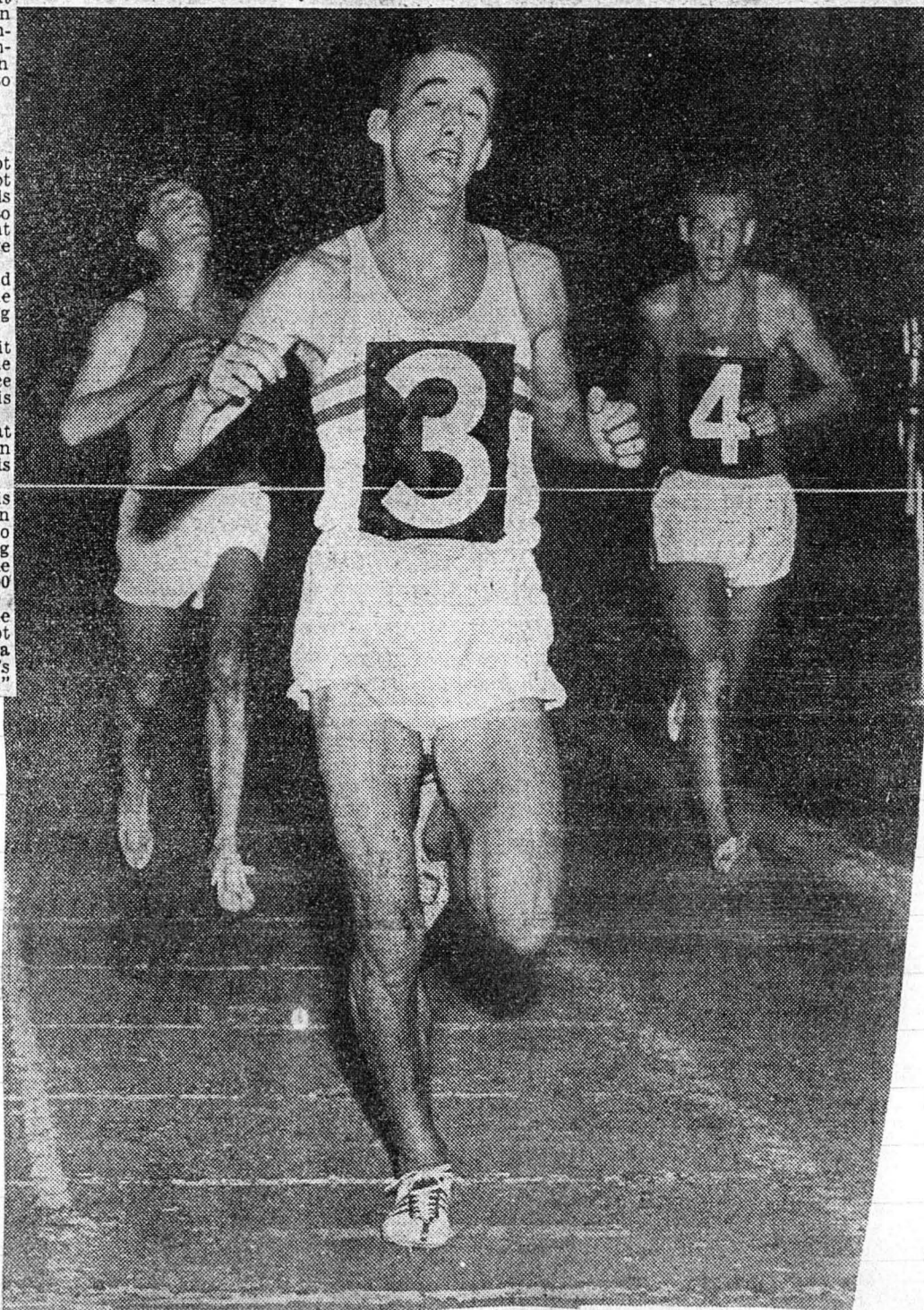
Many athletes at this floodlit meeting, sponsored by the *Evening News*, failed to produce their best form. I attribute this to end-of-season staleness.

Pirie admitted afterwards that having fewer races this season has helped him to sharpen his running.

He said: "My last race this year will be at Manchester on Friday in the mile. I shall do some cross-country running during the winter. At the Olympics my aim is 5,000 metres."

"No, I'm not interested in the 10,000 metres. It will be too hot in Rome for that." And with a dig at Eldon, he added: "That's what he ought to be going for."

## Spotlight On Pirie



3 miles  
INTERNATIONAL RACE

KUENING NEWS FROM LIGHT SPORTS  
WHITE CITY 1959.

MILE INTERNATIONAL RACE

MANCHESTER FROM LIGHT SPORTS, 1959.

In Manchester the German, Seifried Herrmann, outclassed our middle-distance men over the mile when he sprinted away for 4min. 3.6sec. after a slow half-mile.

Derek Ibbotson again proved our best man, but his time of 4min. 8sec. was a mediocre performance. At least Ibbotson is consistent, for he has run this time in his last three races.

Gordon Pirie's poor show over the mile suggests that he no longer possesses the basic speed which made him world record holder over 5,000 metres three years ago.

The mile was rather disappointing in a way, for Dalton, a local runner, set a slow pace and when Herrmann, of East Germany, took charge none could challenge him seriously. Dalton led from Pirie and Herrmann after 440 yards in 61.3sec. and 880 yards in 2min. 5.7sec. Then Herrmann raced to the front on the third quarter in 59.3sec. and the fourth in 58.6sec. for a total of 4min. 3.6sec.—a splendid second half-mile. Ibbotson alone attempted to follow him but he was ten yards down at the bell and weakened in the last furlong.



S. Herrmann winning the mile event in 4min. 3.6sec. at White City, Manchester, last night

**F**OLLOWING news of the retirement of the reigning Olympic 5,000 and 10,000 metres champion, Vladimir Kuts of Russia, is word that his runner-up over the shorter distance, Gordon Pirie, is training like a demon.

I hear from Germany that recently Pirie ran 40 furlongs in 30.31sec. each in under 50min. I only hope his training schedule, worked out by German coach Woldemar Gerschler, does not bring him to a peak too early.

## Our best hope

None of the Continental experts give Pirie a chance of an Olympic title in Rome. I, however, regard him as Britain's most dangerous threat in the 10,000 metres, and believe he has a better chance of a Gold Medal than any other British male athlete.

Pirie, who will be 29 when the Olympic Games take place next summer, plans to retire from the track afterwards and return to New Zealand.

## This could make Gordon Pirie run a mile!

by SYDNEY HULLS

**G**ORDON PIRIE has been offered a job—in a London strip-tease club!

Dean-street showman Michael Klinger, 38, wrote to Pirie yesterday offering him a position that would give him time off for training and competition.

"I'm a sports fan," Klinger told me. "I was appalled when I read that he could not afford to run for Great Britain against Poland at the White City because he would lose pay."

"I do not think England can afford to lose any top athlete at this time. I feel sure there is a place in my organisation."

## Wary Pirie

In Oslo, Pirie was a little wary about whether he would accept or not.

"What would I do in a strip-tease club?" he asked. "I would like to know a few more details before I make a decision. But I appreciate the thought very much. It's nice to know people care about the sport and athletes."

Klinger's reply: "Gordon could be a receptionist or a floor manager. We'll find a job for him. I'm sure all our girls would be very happy to have Gordon working here."

## PIRIE SEES HIS TEAM BEATEN

By GEORGE HARLEY

**G**ORDON PIRIE was the most disappointed SPECTATOR at the Reigate Priory cross-country relays on Saturday.

He pulled a calf muscle in training and could not help his club, South London Harriers, defend the trophy.

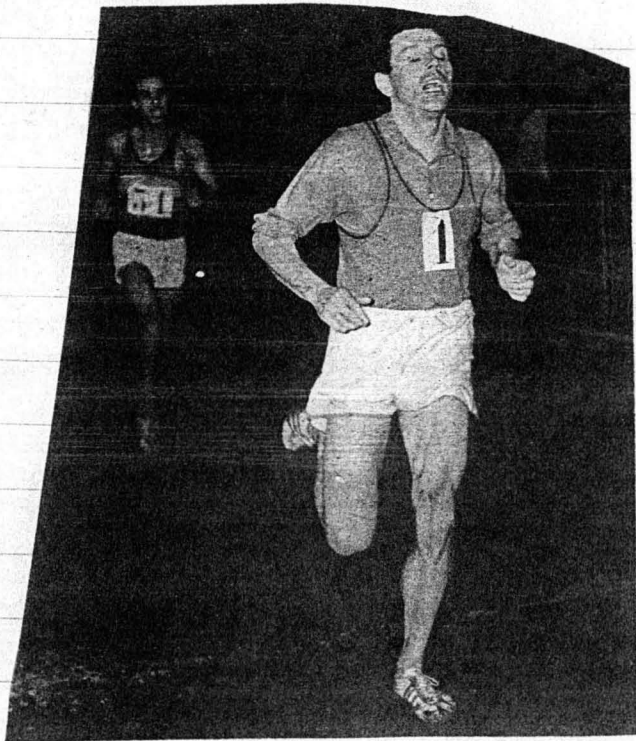
He saw them lose it by fifty yards to Surrey Athletic Club, whose time for the thirteen-and-a-half-mile course was 62m. 10s.



# CHALLENGE LEFAUCHEUX INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY PARIS 1959.



LE DEPART DU CHALLENGE LEFAUCHEUX VIENT D'ETRE DONNE. LES FAVORIS SONT ENFERMES ET IL LEUR FAUDRA SPRINTER POUR SE DEGAGER.



Stoppe par le vent de face qui soufflait violemment, Amour n'a pu résister à la contre-attaque de Van de Wattyne, vainqueur une fois de plus.

**CROSS COUNTRY**  
**PIERRE LEFAUCHEUX INTERNATIONAL RACE** (Les Mureaux, 5 1/2 miles).—1. Vanderwatyn (Belgium), 28m. 58.8s.; 2. H. Amour (France), 28m. 56.4s.; 3. R. Vandendorpe (Belgium), 29m. 22s. British placings: 10. L. Reed, 29m. 55s.; 14. G. Pirie, 30m. 32s.; 16. C. Wilson, 30m. 44s.; 22. N. Chavin, 30m. 47s.; 23. R. Langridge, 31m. 0.1s.; 35. D. Gilson (no time).

**Cross-Country**  
**REED 10th IN FRANCE**  
Marcel Vanderwatyn, of Belgium, won the Pierre Lefauchaux cross country race at Les Mureaux yesterday with a time of 28min 55.8, reports Reuter.  
Best of the South London team was L. D. Reed who came tenth in 29-55. Other South London placings were:  
D. A. G. Pirie 30-32, 14; C. Wilson 30-44, 16; N. Chavin 30-47, 22; R. Langridge 31-1, 23; D. Gilson (no time), 35.  
South London finished fourth in the team competition. Winners were a local club.

# Blow for Britain's world record runner

# PIRIE IS TOLD TO TAKE IT EASY



GORDON PIRIE  
Ironic situation

**Overpowered**  
GORDON PIRIE'S heart is overpowered for his body. That is the verdict from the physiological laboratories at Fribourg, Germany, where Pirie has recently been undergoing a series of measurements and tests.  
Pirie, looking fit and bronzed, has just received the report on his heart.  
His Rolls Royce "ticker" now has a capacity of a quart of blood. Pirie explained to me: "It is not my heart but my legs that are the limiting factor in my running."  
The man who has conditioned his heart by 11 years of merciless training, that some consider has been dangerously severe, proudly now says: "It is impossible for anything my body can do to strain my heart."

THE old "Iron Horse" Gordon Pirie, holder of the world's 3,000 metres record, will have to cut down on his often-fantastic training and racing programme in this forthcoming Olympic year.

Pirie, who arrived in this country from Germany on Christmas Day, had consultations with his German advisers before he left.

**Record-holder**  
Pirie won fourth place in the 5,000 metres at the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952 at the age of 21; he won a Silver Medal at Melbourne in 1956; and he is now preparing with particular care for the Rome Olympics next September.  
Puff-puff Pirie, the man with the over-engined beanstrung chassis, is the only present British holder of a world record—the 3,000 metres.

Then he said: "The trouble is, my heart is far too strong for my muscles. They told me this before I left. It means I shall have to cut my racing and training by more than half this season."

First "casualty" is the withdrawal of "Puff-Puff" from the Surrey county cross-country championships which take place on Saturday.

How bitterly ironic that the man who has probably displayed more "heart" than almost any British athlete of the past decade should now find his "secret weapon" potentially turned against him.

# Pirie heart worry? Just watch him go

By DOUG WILSON

GORDON PIRIE may be worried about his heart, he may have cut down on his training and he may be nearing the end of his career. But it's going to take a super fit man to beat him in the Southern Counties nine-mile cross-country championship at Parliament Hill, London, next Saturday.

Gordon, who will be 29 next month, had a medical overhaul in Germany a few weeks ago, and since then has been concerned about his heart. He's reputed to have curtailed his training. But these worries didn't prevent his winning South London Harriers' 10-mile cross-country championship recently in very fast time.

At present Britain's 3,000-metre world record-holder is on the Continent, but he has let it be known in real old Gordon style that he'll "run everybody into the deck" next Saturday.

However, after the massed start of more than 500 runners, galloping Gordon will have no easy job.

He'll be target No. 1 of such dangerous rivals as defending champion Stan Eldon, the Berkshire policeman, Frank Sando (Aylesford), if recovered from flu, John Merriman (Watford), Alan Perkins (Ilford) and Bruce Tulloh (Portsmouth).

The team event should be a close struggle between Thames Valley and South London. But with Pirie back again my tip is S.L.H.



# PIRIE'S ROME ROUTINE

SLEEP your way to an Olympic title. That's part of Gordon Pirie's plan to earn place in Britain's athletic team Rome this year.

Gordon, facing last chance of Olympic fame has at least twelve hours sleep a day on his training agenda.

He also does weight training morning and night plus a punishing ten-mile run on the track each mid-day.

"There's been a lot of nonsense talked about my heart," says Pirie. "Truth is, my heart is superb. If my muscles were as good as mine, I'd be a champion."





Gordon Pirie.

## South London Harriers 10 MILE Cross-Country CHAMPIONSHIP COUNSDON 1960.

South London H. Champs. Seniors 10 M.  
1. D. A. G. Pirie 55.00; 2. N. Chanin 56.16;  
3. C. Wilson 57.09; 4. J. Lyne 57.25. H'cp:  
1. C. F. G. Aldridge 49.28; 2. D. W. Sudbury  
50.07; 3. N. Chanin 50.12. Juniors 5 M. 1.  
P. Barber 27.54; 2. C. J. Harvey 28.02; 3.  
A. J. Yates 28.13; 4. N. Dungeate 28.17.  
H'cp: 1. W. J. Morris 26.05; 2. A. J. Yates  
26.58; 3. P. T. Bodley 27.11. Youths 3½ M.  
1. S. D. G. Stephens 22.35; 2. W. C. Cheese-  
man 23.05

### Cross-Country

## PIRIE MAY USE SOUTHERN RACE AS "WARM-UP"

## TWO OLYMPIC TITLES ARE OBJECTIVE

By JACK CRUMP

TO-DAY'S Southern cross-country championship field is probably the best ever and there is considerable excitement as to who will win the individual title at Parliament Hill Fields. Great interest is attached to D. A. G. Pirie's entry.

Pirie has as his main objective the Olympic 5,000 metres and is said also to be contemplating the 10,000 metres.

Ambitious as this may seem it is significant that his German coach, W. Gerschner, a quiet thoughtful man, has made no secret of the fact that he considers a top-form Pirie, to be unbeatable over the shorter distance and fully capable of winning both titles.

Since he returned to this country Pirie has trained hard and regularly but so far this winter has not disclosed his form in cross-country races. If he does not consider it too early in his training programme and is willing to try for victory he will be a very strong contender for the title at present held by S. E. Eldon.

### MERRIMAN CHANCE

#### Could Do Well Again

When Pirie was racing regularly over the country he was outstanding and, back in his old form, he could be so again. Eldon, on the other hand, has not been conspicuously successful so far this winter, he, too, having Olympic considerations in mind.

In the inter-county Cross-Country Championship, J. L. Merriman was the most convincing of the Southern runners and he is a consistent performer who could easily defeat Eldon again as he did at Brighton.

A. Perkins, the former national champion, who ran well to finish sixth behind Eldon at Brighton is another who will like the going at Parliament Hill Fields while F. J. Sando (if he has recovered from his recent cold) would not lack supporters in his title-attempts.

M. B. S. Tulloh, who has already had a winter's racing at Cambridge to condition him, F. Seal, the Middlesex champion, and H. V. Ford, the

## SOUTHERN CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP 1960. HAMPSTEAD.



Getting into their stride in this afternoon's Southern Counties Cross Country championships shortly after the start from Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead.

The senior event over a very sticky 9 miles course went to John Merriman (Watford). In clocking 48min. 44sec. he romped home to win by 200 yards from Bruce Tulloh (Portsmouth) the A.A.A. three mile champion, with Stan Eldon (Windsor and Eton), the defending champion, third.

When Merriman gained a 30-yard lead after 2 miles there was no stopping him. There was however a desperate battle for second place, with Tulloh and Eldon fighting it out for a neck and neck finish.

Merriman, Empire Games six miles silver medallist, is hoping to run for Britain in the Olympic 10,000 metres at Rome. But this will be his last season of athletics.

England's international cross-country captain, Frank Sando, finished fifth to show that he's recovering from his recent bout of flu. But many people were disappointed that Gordon Pirie was only 13th. Pirie, however, was far from dejected. He said, "I was quite pleased. I just can't run over the mud these days. All my training's done on the track and it's the track that I'm concentrating upon."

### Results.

Southern.—1. J. Merriman (Watford), 2. B. Tulloh (Portsmouth), 3. S. Eldon (Windsor and Eton). Team: 1. Thames Valley 150 points; 2. South London 212; 3. Woodford Green 310. Juniors: 1. M. Battey (Thurrock), 2. W. L. J. Card (Thames Valley), 3. S. Williams (Devonport). Team: South London Youths: 1. D. S. Clark (Gosport), 2. F. Stebbings (Croydon), 3. P. Snook (R.A.F.). Team: Hercules



John Merriman (Watford H.) winning the Southern Senior C.C. Championship.

By SYDNEY HULLS

GORDON PIRIE and Mike Wiggs yesterday drove off to Germany, leaving behind a covey of very cross-country officials.

For salesman Pirie, 29, and Moor Park clerk Wiggs, 21, have rejected invitations to run for England in the International Cross-Country championship at Hamilton Park, Glasgow, on Saturday week.

Instead they will be in Freiburg, having pre-Olympic consultations with coach Woldemar Gerschler.

The nine-man England team was selected after the National Cross-Country championship at Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, on Saturday.

The team and three reserves is traditionally chosen from the first dozen home, but John Merriman (Wales), who was second, Bruce Tulloh (Scotland 8th), and Dave Richards (Wales, 14th), as well as Pirie (7th) and Wiggs (11th) are not available. The

team, with National placings and times, is—  
B. Heatley (Bedworth), 45min. 15sec. 1; S. Eldon (Windsor), 3; G. North (Blackpool), 4; J. Anderson (Saltwell), 5; F. Norris (Bolton), 6; F. Sando (Aylesford) (captain), 9; H. Minshall (Bolton), 10; A. Perkins (Ilford), 12; B. Hill-Cottingham (Chelmsford), 13. Reserves: L. Reed (S. London), 15; D. Taylor (Grimsby), 16; F. Salvat (Finchley), 17.

### Cross-Country

## PIRIE DANGER BEATEN OFF BY HEATLEY

## SOGGY COURSE OVERCOME

Both the team and individual championships were won by wide margins in the senior English cross-country race at Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, on Saturday. B. B. Heatley, of Coventry Godiva, ran right away from the field of over 600 runners and Derby and County A.C. took the team title, 144 points ahead of South London Harriers. Sheffield United Harriers' team of veterans, the favourites, were most disappointing in third place.

The England team for the international championship, which was announced afterwards, was not the automatic choice of the first nine. Merriman, second, will run for Wales at Glasgow on March 26, and Tulloh, eighth, has agreed to race in the Scottish team.

Pirie, who finished just before him, was invited for the fifth time to run for England but declined for the third occasion as he is going to Germany to see his coach. He will be accompanied by the 21-year-old Wiggs, who provided a big surprise by finishing eleventh, so Wiggs has also turned down the selectors' invitation. I find it impossible to justify his attitude. A few days with a German coach is nothing compared with the honour of running for England.

### SANDO AGAIN CAPTAIN

The English team will now presumably be as follows:—B. B. Heatley, S. E. Eldon, G. A. North, J. P. Anderson, F. Norris, F. D. Sando (captain), H. Minshall, A. F. Perkins, B. Hill-Cottingham. Reserve (to travel), L. D. G. Reed.

The withdrawal of Pirie and Wiggs brings in Minshall, a consistent performer in university cross-country, the 1957 English champion in Perkins, and the Essex runner Hill-Cottingham. Perkins ran with a heavy cold and would probably have finished a place or two higher without this handicap. Sando, taking part in his last English championship, is once again chosen as captain, while Norris, the defending champion, gains another international vest at 38.

### MARSHY FIELDS

Heatley's triumph was the real beacon on a day of grey skies and depressing gusts of rain. Well built (5ft. 8in. and 10st. 4lb.) for the hilly nine-mile course of undulating parkland and marshy fields, he looked certain to win once he had taken the lead

## WEST BROMWICH 1960.



With Heatley already in the lead after a mile and a half, his closest rivals plough through mud in heavy rain. They are Gerry North, who was fourth, J. Merriman (second) and Gordon Pirie (seventh).

### ENCOURAGING POSITION

On went Heatley, looking fresh and rosy-faced, though he later said that he had felt tired in the last two miles. He crossed the line with arms raised and a wide grin and then came the wait for lesser men. The chief surprises in the first dozen were Pirie at seventh—a most encouraging position in view of his Olympic ambitions at 5,000 metres—Minshall at tenth and then the lean, crew-cut Wiggs, who had made something of a mark in junior miles after returning from an American university.

### Results:—

INDIVIDUALS.—B. B. Heatley (Coventry Godiva), 45min. 15sec. 1; J. L. Merriman (Watford), 48min. 44sec. 2; S. Eldon (Windsor and Eton), 45min. 45sec. 3; G. A. North (Blackpool and Fylde), 45min. 50sec. 4; J. P. Anderson (Saltwell), 46min. 11sec. 5; F. Norris (Bolton), 46min. 22sec. 6; D. A. G. Pirie (South London), 46min. 38sec. 7; M. B. S. Tulloh (Portsmouth), 46min. 52sec. 8; F. D. Sando (Aylesford Paper Mills), 46min. 54sec. 9; H. Minshall (Bolton), 47min. 11sec. 10; M. E. Wiggs (Thames Valley), 47min. 18sec. 11; A. F. Perkins (Ilford), 47min. 16sec. 12; B. Hill-Cottingham (Chelmsford), 47min. 24sec. 13; D. J. P. Richards (Polytechnic), 47min. 25sec. 14; L. D. G. Reed (South London), 47min. 26sec. 15; D. Taylor (Grimsby), 47min. 36sec. 16; F. Salvat (Finchley), 47min. 41sec. 17; A. Taylor (Derby), 47min. 45sec. 18; F. Seal (Ponders End), 19; E. G. Matley (Derby), 47min. 53sec. 20.

TEAMS.—Derby and County A.C. 171 points (Taylor 18, Matley 20, M. J. Bullivant 21, P. A. Wilkinson 28, A. P. Kelly 35, J. T. Kelly 49); 1. South London H. 315 (Pirie 7, Reed 14, M. W. Firth 27, N. Chanin 79); F. D. Gilson 96, J. R. Humphreys 98); 2. Sheffield United H. 354 (K. Wood 33, D. H. Walker 42, J. Nichols 52, A. Bargh 65, A. Barden 79, A. Coker 83); 3. Portsmouth A.C. 479, 4; Thames Valley H. 549, 5; Woodford Green A.C. 556, 6; Polytechnic H. 625, 7; Bristol A.C. 633, 8; Aylesford P.M.S.C. 680, 9; Bolton United H. 713, 10.





# WHITHER GORDON PIRIE?

*X* asks KEN NORRIS *X*

Win or lose, Gordon Pirie always seems to hit the headlines. They write him up, they write him down, they write him everywhere — this darned elusive human hare!

"A prophet hath no honour in his own land," so says the legend.

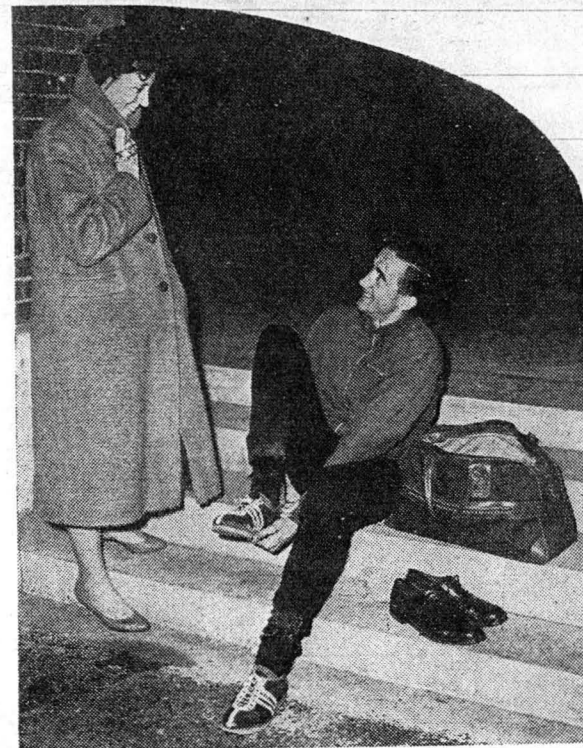
Thus it is that Gordon Pirie, world record holder for 3,000 metres, is unlauded and unsung by the British Press, most of the British Public and all but the athletes who know him, and the Continentals who appreciate his greatness.

Other athletes can have an off day, scratch through injury or finish down the field in a race below the normal distance, but not he. If he's beaten, it's "Pirie flops"; if he wins and does not set a record it is "Pirie did not try" or alternatively, he was a bad sportsman for not letting some other athlete win.

But what of 1960? Pirie, written off in 1955, came back to establish two world records and take a silver medal in 1956. Written off again in 1958, he put in only two appearances at the White City in 1959, winning with devastating ease on both occasions.

This winter, with the Olympic Games only a few months away, he is not mentioned in connection with possible finalists or medal winners. Here, however, lies his strength. Nothing drives him more than criticism. Say he's great and he's finished, but say he's no good, running in the wrong races and training the wrong way—and then watch out. Gordon is determined to prove you wrong.

Under the guidance of Woldemar Gerschler Gordon set new peaks of achievement in 1956 but on his emigration to New Zealand he lost touch with his dynamic coach. He continued along similar lines for two years with only mixed success, until



Gordon adjusts his shoes as he gets ready for training, with wife Shirley looking on.

he decided to return to Freiburg last June.

## Stronger than ever!

After an extensive check up, which included psychological tests and tests on his concentration, as well as the normal physical tests, he was found to be stronger than ever but needing, in Gerschler's opinion, a different type of training to that which he had been following.

No longer the sprint work with 220's run inside 25 secs. and 440's in 55 secs. Now it is rubbers, sweater and 31 secs. and 67's for the majority of his early workouts. Later the distances will increase but always the tempo will be that little bit easier than it was in the past but with, of course, more repetitions.

The coming season will see Gordon forsaking the 880 yards and mile races and switching to 3 and 6 miles. Gordon has been doing some cross country running this winter and though not taking it seriously, will at the time of writing run for his club, South London Harriers, if they need him in the National. (Gordon did, in fact, run in the National, and as you may know, finished 7th—Editor).

GORDON does not believe in planning his racing programme too far ahead but changes his mind, sometimes rather rapidly, according to his state of fitness at the time. He is contemplating the Southern "6" after which he will continue to race in England through the summer season.

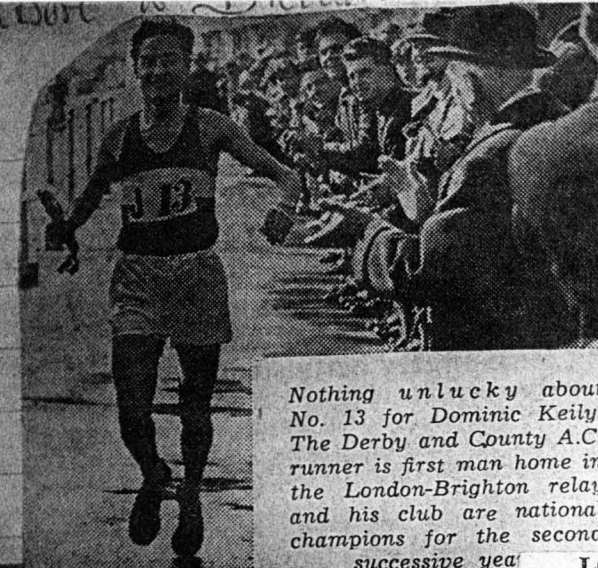
Gordon is quite certain in his own mind that if he trains for the 10,000 metres as well as the 5,000 metres, he can succeed in both instead of being just that little bit short of the distance, as he was at Melbourne. Providing he is selected, he would like to run in both events at Rome.

There is no longer a man of the calibre of Kuts or Zatopek to dominate the distance races and in fact, the field is devoid of any really outstanding athlete. I fancy that the man (or men) who can beat Halberg in the 5,000 metres and Grodotzki in the longer race should win. Gordon Pirie could be just that man!

After the Olympics—what then? With his love of camping, fishing, surf riding and all the attractions of an unspoilt New Zealand, I think he will retire, justly proud of a gold medal and the satisfaction of having once again proved the press wrong.

OLYMPIC runner Gordon Pirie has become a car salesman with an Addington firm.

"I shall train for the next Olympics in my lunch hour and in the evenings."



Nothing unlucky about No. 13 for Dominic Keily. The Derby and County A.C. runner is first man home in the London-Brighton relay and his club are national champions for the second successive year.

# London-Brighton relay KEILY & CO. KEEP TITLE FOR DERBY

By Our Athletics Correspondent

DERBY and County Athletic Club won the News of the World London to Brighton road relay yesterday for the second year running—and I do mean running. They took the lead early in the second stage between Clapham Common and Mitcham, and they never looked back.

Derby won in 4hr 33min 18sec, more than seven minutes faster than their time last year. Second were Portsmouth A.C. in 4hr 37min 35sec, and South London Harriers third in 4hr 38min 25sec.

## LONDON-BRIGHTON RELAY

Dear Sir,

I should like to take this opportunity in the battle for second and third places — a battle that continued right until the last Brighton Relay possible. Most people do not realise how difficult it is for the officials to fight the traffic and still keep the race going as smoothly as it does.

At the other end of the scale it becomes quite easy to say from the point of view of the competitors just what a damned nuisance some of the supporters and their transport have become.

The Portsmouth A.C. coach in particular seemed to do their very best to park at every blind corner they could. Others who I do not know were driving close to me whilst I was running and I should like to appeal to drivers—if you can't keep away from runners at least get your exhausts flavoured!

Lastly, the timekeeping robbed Bruce Tulloh of a new record on stage 9 when he beat 28 minutes by two seconds!!

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Pirie

## Magnificent Hyman

Britain's established stars showed up well. Martin Hyman paved the way for Portsmouth's second place with a magnificent record-breaking run in the eighth and longest lap. He covered the 6 miles 264 yards in 28min 59sec and hauled his team up from ninth to fourth place. But guarding Derby's proud No. 1 position on this lap was their wily Arthur Keily. He maintained his team's lead over one of the most agonising parts of the course.

On the next six-mile lap Gordon Pirie, for South London, and Bruce Tulloh, for Portsmouth, had a terrific battle. Pirie was first away but the tiny Tulloh caught him and they raced at a searing pace for miles. Then the long-legged puffing Pirie forced his way ahead again.

Coventry Godiva Harriers looked like becoming the shock team of the day when Basil Heatley pulled them from 10th position to second on the third leg with a time that was only three seconds outside the lap record. But Coventry lacked the strength in depth to consolidate their position, and gradually they fell back.

The special medals for the most meritorious performance went to the Manchester and District Lads' Club Harriers—whose officials didn't want the club to enter as they thought they didn't stand a chance.

But the athletes talked over, and went to the officials to say: "We want to run. We want to show 'em what we can do. And they did."

## Result:

1. Derby & County A.C. (4hr 33min 18sec); 2. Portsmouth A.C. (4-37-35); 3. South London Harriers (4-38-25); 4. Belgrave Harriers (4-39-39); 5. Blackheath Harriers (4-40-2); 6. Sheffield United Harriers (4-40-42); 7. Walton A.C.; 8. Coventry Godiva Harriers; 9. Birchfield Harriers; 10. Wood Green A.C.; 11. Manchester & District Lads' Club Harriers; 12. Highgate Harriers; 13. Bolton United Harriers; 14. Shettleston Harriers; 15. Bellahouston Harriers; 16. Polytechnic Harriers; 17. North Staffordshire & Stone Harriers; 18. Ilford Athletic Club; 19. Manchester A.C. Special medals for the most meritorious performance—Manchester and District Lads' Club Harriers.

Stage 9. Mike Bullivant beat his own record by 2 sec. though Derby were nearly 4 mins. ahead. Behind him, Pirie (S.L.H.) and Tulloh (Ports.) had a great battle, though losing considerable ground to the leader. Tulloh closed the 25 sec gap and they ran together until nearing the take-over, Pirie got away to hand over 15 sec. up on his rival. Belgrave moved up on Blackheath's heels and Sheffield were coming into the picture thanks to a fine run by Nichols. At the tail end of the field Alan Perkins was



The first runners set off in the rain from Old Palace Yard, Westminster, on the first stage of the London to Brighton road relay race today. The race consists of 12 stages and the course measures 55 miles, 1000 yards.





event was the two miles in which seven internationals were competing, among them Stan Eldon, Gordon Pirie, Laurie Reed, Stephen James, Alisdair Wood and the enigmatic Derek Ibbotson.

At the start it was Pirie who took the lead, but with the leading runners sprinting and then easing, the lead changed hands several times until at the bell it was Eldon from Pirie and Ibbotson.

With 250 yards to go, Pirie burst clear, but round the final bend it was Ibbotson who suddenly crashed back to race home a confident winner by two yards from Reed, with Pirie in third place and Eldon fourth.

### Tactical triumph

In view of the number of internationals competing, the time was not as fast as might have been expected, but it was a fine tactical triumph for Ibbotson, who was celebrating the birth of his second daughter last Saturday.

His time of 8 min 50.6 sec was a ground record for Ibbotson himself set the old record at 8 min 52 sec at this meeting last year. "I had to win to safeguard my own record," said Ibbotson, whose last lap was 57 sec.

The first University man home was Wood in fifth position, but his time of 8 min 53.4 sec was well inside the OUAC record of D J P Richards set at 8 min 57 sec three years ago.

Wood was none too pleased with his performance, however, for he admitted: "I didn't know what was going on. One minute they were sprinting and the next we were falling over ourselves again."

AAA v Oxford University.  
at Oxford 1960.



(right) Derek Ibbotson wins the two miles with a time of 8min. 50.6sec. which beat his own ground record for the event.

### Help for Pirie

GORDON PIRIE returns to England next week-end after spending two weeks undergoing intensive training in Germany under his German coach, Waldemar Gerschler.

He travelled to Germany at the expense of the International Athletes' Club, whose chairman, steeplechaser John Disley, said today: "Sending Gordon to Germany was fulfilling one of our objects" to give financial assistance to Olympic prospects for their training.

The Club's funds have come from various sources, including two football matches and the publication of a book.

Road to Rome, written by club members.

Pirie is concentrating on the three and six miles this season, aiming at medals in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres in Rome. It is expected to be his last Olympic bid.

His training spell in Germany may not be the only one this summer before the Games.

OUR international athletes are a progressive lot these days. Through their International Athletes Club they have produced a fascinating book, *The Road to Rome* (William Kimber: 15s.) out today.

Olympic champion Chris Brasher's graphic story of the "gold medal that nearly wasn't" made me relive the suspense that followed his disqualification after winning the 3,000 metres steeplechase in the last Olympic Games in Melbourne.

Brasher takes the reader with him as he stands before the jury defending himself against the charge that brought the disqualification.

In another chapter Gordon Pirie writes: "I do not run to hit the headlines—I run to prove myself to myself."

Other famous internationals who have contributed to the book include Chris Chataway, Roger Bannister, Sydney Wooderson, Derek Ibbotson, Derek Johnson and John

### Win for Pirie

Britain's Gordon Pirie won the 3,000 metres in 8min 4.4 sec at an athletics meeting at Krefeld, West Germany, reports Reuter. Pirie holds the world record (7 min 52.8sec) for the distance.



GORDON PIRIE leaves today for Germany to get instructions from coach Waldemar Goerschler for the next stage of his pre-Olympic training for the 5,000 and 10,000 metres.

The last stage has produced the most revolutionary sight seen on a British track.

Gordon has a 100 metre straight measured out at Coulsdon. At each end is a mattress on a board sloped so that Gordon can lie down with his feet higher than his head!

Gordon has worked to this schedule:

Run up the straight against the stop-watch in 13.6 to 13.9 secs.

Lie down for twenty seconds, while his wife, Shirley, counts his heartbeats. Then run the reverse direction 100 metres and lie down again for twenty seconds.

Then repeat the dose fifty times!

3,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE.  
STUTTGART, GERMANY 1960.



But the outstanding performance was by the lone wolf of British athletics, GORDON PIRIE, who beat Europe's No. 1 distance runner, Zdzislaw Krzyszkowiak, over 3,000 metres in Stuttgart.

### Clever

The Polish ace holds the European 5,000 and 10,000 metres titles and had run the fastest 3,000 metres this year.

But Pirie won a clever tactical race in 8m. 6.6s by ten yards.

## Pirie in sizzling triumph



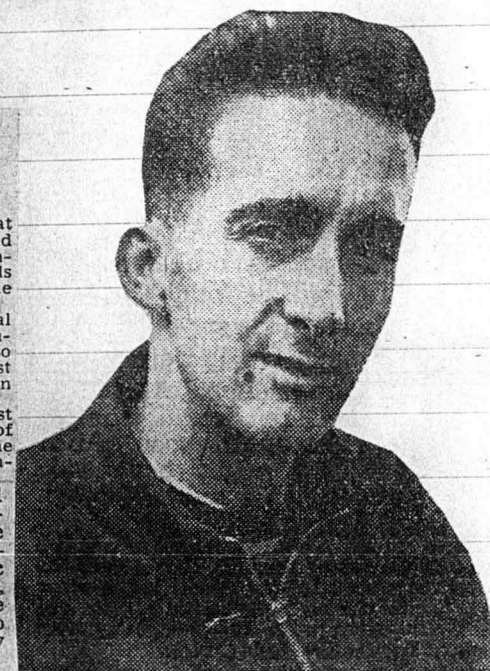
## PIRIE IS OUT ON HIS OWN

IN the Surrey championships at Motspur Park, Gordon Pirie had to make all his own pace in winning the three miles by 30 yards in 13min. 59sec.—14 seconds outside Olympic qualifying time.

Pirie runs in the international 3,000m at White City on Whit Monday, and tells me he would also like to go for the 1,500m, against Jungwirth and Lewandowski on Saturday.

He has now regretfully almost written off his earlier intention of doubling the 10,000m, with the 5,000m, for Rome and will concentrate on the latter distance.

Gordon Pirie thrashed a field of Surrey three-milers at Motspur Park, but returned the poor time of 13min. 59sec.—14sec. outside the Olympic qualifying standard. Said Pirie, "I hate running against the watch. I could get down to 13min. 10sec. if I had somebody up front to pace me."



SURREY COUNTY  
3 miles CHAMPIONSHIP  
MOTSPUR PARK  
1960.





## Testing the £4,000 track

FAMOUS feet yesterday tried out a new £4,000 track at the White City, London, for the first time. Gordon Pirie, Mary Bignal, Peter Radford and Brian Hewson all agreed it was firmer and faster than the old surface. One particu-

larly notable feature of the track, specially laid by the Greyhound Racing Association, is that races can easily be staged over metres or yards as movable kerb stones on one bend can convert the 400 metres circuit to 440 yards.

## PIRIE'S PLAN: TWICE ROUND WORLD FOR MEDAL

By TERRY O'CONNOR

GORDON PIRIE will have run twice round the world in search of a gold medal by the time the Rome Olympic Games arrive this summer.

Only a man of Pirie's strange personality could have driven himself to such lengths in search of a place on the Olympic victors' rostrum.

During the last ten years he has averaged 4,000 miles annually. But as his athletic career started at the age of nine, 20 years ago, he considers he will pass the 50,000 mile mark this summer.

Pirie has been around the world a couple of times as he emigrated to New Zealand after the Melbourne Olympic Games and has since returned twice to Europe. I emphasise Europe, as Pirie flits from one country to another performing a variety of jobs.

Last year he was in Norway

and only returned a few days ago from Germany where he prepared his Olympic training programme under coach Wolde-mar Gerschler.

"This season I will concentrate on the three and six miles in the hope of making the 5,000 and 10,000 events at Rome," Pirie told me in between one of his daily training sessions.

Pirie, still holder of the world 3,000 metres record, ran in these events at Helsinki and Melbourne. Many people believe he destroyed his chances in the Melbourne 5,000 metres by trying to beat Vladimir Kuts in the longer race.

Pirie is not universally popular as he likes being the odd man out. At the same time it is impossible not to admire a man who has devoted himself to track success.

To do this he has sacrificed his own career and become an odd-job man prepared to do anything provided he has time to train.

### The Danger Men

During training to-day, Pirie discussed his likely rivals at Rome. He ranks the New Zealander Murray Halberg, Australian Albie Thomas, Pole Zazimierz Zimny and Englishmen Bruce Tulloh and Stan Eldon as the most dangerous men for the 5,000 metres.

For the longer haul he mentioned the names of Alan Lawrence (Australia), Pyotr Bolotnikov (Russia), Hans Grodotzki (Germany) and Sandor Iharos (Hungary).

Modestly Pirie does not mention himself, but I felt when talking to him that he considered both titles within his reach. But then no one becomes a world champion without confidence.

I am certain Pirie will once again be a star of the British track this season.

BRITISH GAMES 1,500 METRES WHITE CITY. INTERNATIONAL RULES 1960.

GALLOPING Gordon Pirie sent the sun-tanned White City, London, crowd wild with excitement yesterday, and had them cheering and yelling with delight as he scorched to a spectacular international 1,500 metres victory in 3min 44.1sec to provide the highlight of the News of the World British Games and Inter-County championships.

His time not only beat by nine-tenths of a second the Olympic qualifying standard but he slammed Hungary's Istvan Rozsavolgyi—the world's fastest 1,500 metres runner this year—by six yards, with Britain's Ken Wood third in 3min 45sec.

So 29-year-old Gordon who wants to represent Britain in the Olympic 5,000 and 10,000 metres, has become the first British athlete to qualify for the 1,500 metres. His time was equal to a mile in 4min 1sec. Yet only a week ago when asked if he would try to qualify for the 1,500 metres Gordon answered "Why not the pole-vault?"

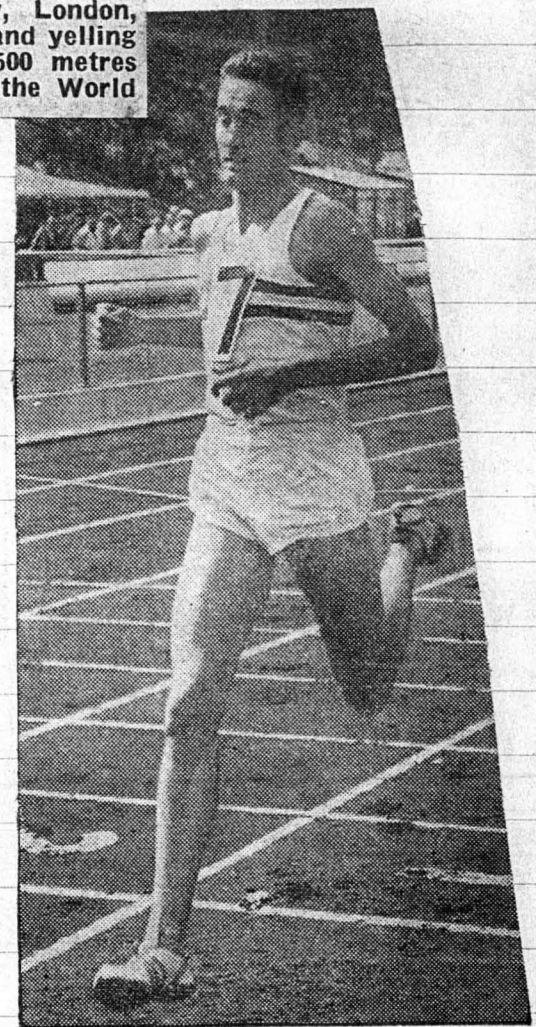
But back to the race itself. From the gun, Ostach of Germany raced into the lead followed by Rozsavolgyi and Stanislaw Jungwirth of Czechoslovakia, with Pirie well down the field. Sixty yards from the bell Rozsavolgyi suddenly raced away from his rivals, and set up a ten-yard gap. Only one man attempted to chase him—Pirie.

Round the back straight Pirie closed on to the Hungarian's heels and looked well in command of the situation. Into the home straight they came and at this stage all eyes were on Ken Wood, who looked as if he were making another of his late bids for victory.

### Pace too hot

BUT Ken, who nevertheless equalled the Olympic qualifying time of 3min 45sec, could not hold the pace, and it was Gordon who sprang ahead and finished a comfortable winner.

Pirie said afterwards: "I was rather disappointed with the time. Rozsavolgyi slowed the pace down on the back straight. The only reason I ran in this race was to get more speed for my first serious three miles which I will have in the Southern Championships at Motspur Park in two weeks' time."



This is Gordon Pirie striding to victory in the 1,500 metres at White City.

### Sharpening up

IS it because Britain is not without an outstanding miler for the Olympics or because he wants to sharpen himself for the longer distances which prompts Gordon Pirie to go for the 1,500 metres at White City on Saturday?

I think it is a combination of both, although at the start of the season Pirie assured me that mile runs were out for him and that he would be concentrating on three and six miles events in preparation for the metric equivalent in Rome.

Pirie's chance of improving on his 5,000 metres silver medal success in Melbourne four years ago is a big one, but he has been persuaded that with such a high standard likely it would be wise to improve his finishing speed. His stamina is unquestioned and unlimited.

### 4 min. mile?

In the sharpening process, however, Pirie could well turn in the four-minute mile which could see him going to Italy as a bright 1,500-metre hope for Britain.

He would then have the chance of tackling three races, although a 1,500 metres success would, I feel, see him drop the 10,000 metres, an event in which he has never yet com-

### DEDICATION

WHITSUNTIDE will see Gordon Pirie hurl himself into the most important three months of his spectacular career. For the next 14 weeks everything in his life will take second place to running, with an Olympic gold medal as his ultimate goal.

This week-end he runs in the 1,500- and 3,000-metre international events at the White City. In his first race on Saturday, the metric mile, he will be up against Rozsavolgyi (who did 3min 41.5sec in Budapest this week), Lewandowski, of Poland, and Jungwirth, the Czech who formerly held the world record.

"I am really using this race to speed up for the 3,000 metres on Monday," he says. "The longer race is more important to me in Olympic year."

I think that victory in the 5,000 metres at Rome is the target on which he has set his heart, for he was second to Kuts in this event at Melbourne. But he has hopes of the 10,000 metres, too.

"Funny thing is that I've had only one 10,000 metres race since the last Olympics," were Pirie's last words before he dashed off to Rickmansworth, for another concentrated five-day training spell.

There is only one word for



Gordon Pirie, right, and Alan Perkins, with the coach-and-four, set off on a practice run.

HOW topical can you get? ITV tonight are investigating London's traffic problem.

Four athletes — runners Gordon Pirie and Alan Perkins, walker Gordon Williams, and cyclist Joe



Gordon Pirie puffs home ahead of the Hungarian, Istvan Rozsavolgyi, in the 1,500 metres at the White City.



D.A.G. Pirie (left) breaks the tape in the 1,500 metres ahead of I. Rozsavolgyi (3) and K. Wood.



3,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE  
WHITE CITY  
1960



The man who stole the show . . . Gordon Pirie (No. 16) makes his break to win the 3,000 metres yesterday.



WHILE other guests ate their cereal and bacon and eggs, 29-year-old Gordon Pirie and his 24-year-old wife brought their own food down to breakfast at their Lancaster Gate hotel to-day—raw oats, sultanas, and Barbados sugar with molasses.

And on that diet plus steak and salad for lunch, Gordon was running in the 3,000 metres at the White City British Games this afternoon.

Wherever the Pories go, there go raw oats, sultanas and Barbados sugar. And when they go food-shopping its for unpolished rice, raw vegetables, fresh fruit and corn oil.

#### No cooking

"They have been on this nature food diet since they met a Norwegian a year ago. "He told us about the marvellous stamina of the Laplanders on this kind of food," Mrs Pirie told me.

"We feel much more awake and alive on it and Gordon is certainly more relaxed than he used to be. It's lovely for me—having practically no cooking to do.

sometimes rice puddings. But mostly it's grilled steak, raw vegetables and fresh fruit. And when they do eat fried food, it's fried in corn oil.

"I think the diet plus training has helped Gordon very much," Mrs. Pirie, former international sprinter, tells me. "Occasionally, though, I go astray with ice-cream and cakes. And only yesterday I got a telling off from Gordon for wanting cream."

"She," added sadly: "I love cream."

by winning the 3,000 metres at the British Games yesterday. Europe's best toiled behind them. It was Saturday's 1,500 metres triumph all over again.

The world's distance runners have been warned . . . Britain's Pirie is going to be very hard to beat for the 5,000 metres in the Olympic Games at Rome this summer.

Soon after Pirie romped home yesterday in 7min. 57.2sec.—less than five seconds outside his own world record—he set himself another target. "I'm going to throw my full efforts into the 5,000 metres at Rome," he told me. "I've virtually decided not to worry about the 10,000 metres.

"With a bit of luck, I can win the 5,000, though I'm not forgetting I have not managed the Olympic qualifying time—yet. And I DO realise there are some great 5,000 metres runners around—particularly Murray Halburg, the New Zealander."

Now I hear that plans are being made for Pirie to switch to the shorter distance when Britain tackles Russia in Moscow soon.

Pirie was in complete command of yesterday's race, just as he had been on Saturday. I am confident that Roszavolgyi, Zdzislaw Krzyszkowiak (Poland), Miroslav Jurek (Czechoslovakia), Frank Salvat and company did not stretch Pirie to the limit.

Twenty-nine-year-old Gordon did only what was required to win. If necessary, he could have broken his record.

He was content to stride in the rear as the Scot, Graham Everett, flashed into the lead to cover the first lap in 60.2sec.

Then Pirie moved boldly into the picture as Krzyszkowiak began to challenge Everett approaching the mile-post which was reached in 4min. 16.8sec.

A lap-and-a-half later Krzyszkowiak, dual European champion, strode majestically to the front, with Pirie at his heels.

Pirie set himself to match the punishing burst he knew must come from the European champion.

With a lap to go, Krzyszkowiak suddenly broke away, hoping to kill off the powerful, persistent challenge of the Englishman.

But Pirie was in pursuit, and he caught the Pole entering the back straight. The crowd rose to cheer Pirie as he raced unflinchingly into the lead.

Still cool, Pirie took a quick glance over his shoulder and saw Roszavolgyi challenging Pirie was content to let him draw closer.

Then Pirie produced a final burst of speed which settled all Roszavolgyi's hopes of revenge.

Fast-moving Pirie's next stop is Germany. This weekend he will have another physical check-up with his coach, Woldemar Gerschler. He returns for the South of England three-mile championship the following week.

Bandleader Billy Cotton watched Pirie's victory and commented: "No need to shout 'Wakey, wakey' to that lad."

## LAP

## PIRIE TOLD NOT TO RUN IN DUBLIN TWO-MILES

By Roy Moor

A BID planned by Gordon Pirie to break the world record for two miles in Dublin next Sunday has been banned by the British Amateur Athletic Board. They have forbidden him to run at the meeting.

He had received his invitation to compete in Dublin direct from the organisers, instead of through the Board, the accepted international procedure.

A fuming Pirie exploded yesterday: "Why do they stop me from racing in Dublin like this? I am an amateur; I don't get paid anything for racing at these meetings, so why shouldn't I be allowed to run where I wish?"

The invitation was made direct to me because previous invitations to run in Dublin made through the British Board have not always reached me.

I think there is a good chance that I can beat the present world best time on this fast Santry Stadium track."

This is the track on which Herb Elliott brought the world one-mile record down to 3min. 54.5sec; where Alby Thomas, another Australian, set new world marks of 8min. 32sec. for two miles and 13min. 10.8sec. for three miles; and where Murray Halberg, of New Zealand, ran the world's fastest four miles.

Pirie, chosen to race in the 1,500 metres for England against Italy at the White City, London, tomorrow night, has not given up hope that the British Board may yet be persuaded to change their mind.

Billy Morton, chief promoter of the two-day Dublin sports which start on Saturday, is flying to London tomorrow to talk the matter over with the British officials.

He is concerned because the Board have also refused permission for Brian Hewson, the English half-mile champion to run at his meeting.

1,500 METRES, ENGLAND v ITALY, WHITE CITY, 1960.

# PIRIE 'PLOUGHED' IN 1,500

## No chance against the flying farmer!

By GEORGE HARLEY

BRIAN KENT-SMITH, 24, 6ft. 2in. farmer from Ilfracombe, scored the most remarkable victory of England's 95-80 win over Italy at the White City, London, last night.

And he certainly made the most remarkable comment of the evening.

### Devon Lanes

After beating the great Gordon Pirie, idol of the crowd, and three Italians in a fast and exciting 1,500-metre race, he told me:

"This sort of thing's all right, but frankly I would have preferred to have been running in a club race round the lanes of Devon."

Yet this was his first international

qualified are Sheffield's Ken Wood and Gordon Pirie, who is going only for the 5,000 metres in Rome.

Pirie was much more enthusiastic about Kent-Smith's success than the big farmer was himself. He told me: "Brian will be down to 3m. 40s. by the Games."

"I had no chance of beating him tonight, and in fact was never in touch throughout the race."

And Pirie ran darned well!

Kent-Smith set the early pace, tucked himself in behind Alfredo Rizzo after the first 400 metres in 61.3s., then shot away on the final back straight to win by ten



Gordon Pirie congratulates Brian Kent-Smith the 1,500 metres at the White City last night.



# HEWSON draw less than 300 to Croydon Arena

CROYDON ARENA, which attracts crowds like a magnet attracts paper, lived up to its reputation on Saturday, when even the presence of such star athletes as Gordon Pirie and Brian Hewson could not lure more than 300 to the track.

The faithfuls saw the immensely fit Pirie scatter the field in the six miles, saw the immaculate Hewson placed third in the 400 yards and saw four meeting records tumble at this 12-club Brockman Trophy event.

Lean, confident Pirie could, if needed, have gone a good deal faster in the six miles. The humidity and the lesser quality of his rivals made it unnecessary.

Pirie, representing South London Harriers, made all the early pace and a very fast time looked on the cards. But two-thirds of the way through, his pace fell sharply and he came home in 29 min. 38.4 sec., which was still good enough to beat the meeting record by 2.2 sec.

Afterwards, Pirie commented: "I could have done a fast time, but, phew! It was hot. I ran hard for four miles and then I packed it in."

Despite his appearance in this long-distance event, Pirie, who would have done a time trial on his own had he not competed, intends to stick to the 5,000 metres at the Olympic Games—if chosen.

Pirie lapped nine of the 11 other runners. The two he did not were Irishman Jim Hogan, a gallant performer who came second despite a badly damaged big-toe nail, and Selhurst Grammar School master Tony Weeks-Pearson, who was third.



## Pirie laps nine rivals

ONCE more Gordon Pirie strides into the news. In the Brockman Trophy meeting at Croydon yesterday, the South London Harrier virtuoso of the track broke the meeting record for the Six Miles, finishing unruffled and fresh in 29min 38.4sec—12.2sec faster than the old record.

Pirie was never threatened with serious opposition and slowed in the later stages of the race. He was still good enough, however, to finish half a lap ahead of Jim Hogan (Poly H.) who was second in 30min 12sec.

On the way to victory Pirie lapped nine runners out of the field of 12.

After the race, Pirie said: "I ran the scheduled time for the first four miles, but the heat was too much after that."

# hopes of a four-minute mile, says Gordon Pirie

HEAVY rain in the morning flooded sections of the Stompond Lane track and led directly to a disappointing time in the mile race, highlight of Heathfield Sports Association annual athletic meeting on Saturday. Fans and organising officials had both expected to see the first mile in under four minutes on the Walton track in view of the star-studded entry list.

Galloping Gordon Pirie (South London Harriers), one of Britain's brightest hopes for a gold medal at next month's Olympic Games in Rome, won in 4 min. 5.7 secs., finishing a foot in front of Mike Wiggs (Thames Valley Harriers) and Mike Blagrove (Ealing Harriers), with another International, Alan Gordon (Achilles) in fourth place.

Pirie, tall and slightly built, told reporters after the race as he jogged round the grass verge in light blue trousers and bright red track-suit top:

"The track was dead, especially on the inside lane. It was heavy and gave us absolutely no support..."

Twelve runners shot away from the gun and after some jostling, Pirie settled in behind protegee Wiggs and Blagrove as the first lap was completed in 59 seconds—making a mile in under four minutes just possible... In the second circuit, Pirie moved ahead of Blagrove and rounded the last bend at Wigg's shoulders. They crossed the line together in 2 min. 2.5 secs. A slow third lap, completed in 3 min. 4.4 secs., put the magic time out of the question, though.

Pirie took the lead shortly after the bell, but dropped behind on the back straight when Wiggs, Blagrove and Gordon put in a short sprint. The pace was still too slow, with Pirie content to shadow the leaders. But at the last bend he broke loose, running powerfully down the home straight to pull away from his rivals. Wiggs clocked 4 min. 6 secs., Blagrove 4 min. 6.4 secs. and Gordon 4 min. 8 secs.



● Gordon ("Puff-Puff") Pirie is snapped as he is about to break the tape for victory in the mile. At his shoulder is Mike Wiggs while the mud-spattered legs of third-man-home Mike Blagrove can just be seen on the left. Bringing up the rear is the fourth International in the race, Alan Gordon of Achilles A.C.

## PIRIE 'PUSH'

Gordon Pirie has turned down an invitation to run in Sweden this week because of a mile date at Walton-on-Thames on Saturday.

Pirie holds the ground records for 880 yards (a personal best 1m. 53s.), mile (4m. 3.6s.) and three miles (13m. 45s.), but his aim this time is to push 22-year-old, 6ft. 1in. Mike Wiggs into world class.

"All Mike lacks," Gordon tells me, "is the realisation of his own potential that can change him from being merely good to really great. A very fast race will provide that, if he has to go all out for the last 880."

So far, Ealing's Mick Blagrove is the only other international down for the Walton mile, but I hear the field may build up to all-star class. Expect a sub-4min time.

# SOUTHERN COUNTIES 3 MILE CHAMPIONSHIP MOTSPUR PARK. 1960.

Edited

by HARRY LANGTON

IS it still the old Puff Puff Pirie, demon of the long-distance race... or is it Bluff Bluff Pirie?

That was a question Windsor and Eton policeman STAN ELDON pondered after GORDON PIRIE'S Southern three-mile victory in 13min. 30.8sec.

Shrewd Stan, who made the pace for most of the race "just to record a fast time" for himself, finished fourth to Pirie in 13min. 36.8sec., well inside the Olympic 5,000 metres standard. But his real target this year is the Olympic 10,000 metres.

A big admirer of Pirie, Eldon studied the finish of the Southern three miles from well back, and noted: "Like others, I was very surprised to see Gordon's 200-yard finishing burst suddenly come to a halt 30 yards from the tape."

"He certainly seemed to struggle over those last yards. JOHN MERRIMAN, who is no great sprinter, seemed to overhaul him very quickly."

I couldn't help wondering what would have happened if I had made the race about five seconds faster in the middle laps, or if FRANK SALVAT had decided to run instead of train."



MERRIMAN

PIRIE AT THE TAPE



# Gordon Pirie snubs rivals

Edited by HARRY LANGTON

GORDON PIRIE, calmly dismissing the Olympic chances of the rest of Britain's long-distance runners, is now determined to run in both the 5,000 metres AND the 10,000 metres in Rome.

Pirie is almost certain to run in Friday's six miles instead of the three miles in the A.A.A. championships next week-end:

"To prove to everyone—and to myself—that I am worthy to run in the 10,000 metres in Rome."

Is this latest Pirie decision unfair to the hefty squad of Olympic-class British runners who think he should concentrate on one race and so allow another athlete to go to Rome?

Answers Gordon, now 29: "Performances alone should decide who runs. Last year I was the fastest British three-miler, and in 1958 and 1957 I was fastest in the world over 5,000 metres."

"In 1956 I set a world record over 5,000 metres which still stands as the second fastest ever done."

"There is no one in Britain in world class over 10,000 metres. Over 5,000 metres there are a lot of runners who can do fast times but they are not good competitors."

## HE EXPLAINS

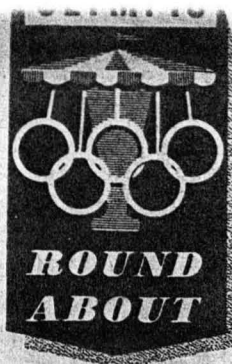
IN the 1956 Olympics Pirie was crushed by KUTS of Russia in the 10,000 metres and finished second in the 5,000.

But four years later Pirie explains: "I didn't expect to win in 1956 because I got myself into a real tangle in training in Australia."

"In any case, it is different this time. The 5,000 metres is run first in Rome, then there is a gap of several days before the 10,000."

Pirie's pay-off for British rivals BRUCE TULLOH—who ran a British record three miles last week—JOHN MERRIMAN, FRANK SALVAT, MARTIN HYMAN, STAN ELDON and Co., angered by Gordon's dim view of their prospects, is this formidable training revelation:

"This year I have been doing 30 quarter-miles a day, with a time for the lot of 50 minutes. That's the kind of thing Kuts was doing in 1956..."



## Pirie must stick to three miles

By SYDNEY HULLS

GORDON PIRIE has entered both the three and six-mile events in the Amateur Athletic Association Championships at London's White City on July 15 and 16. The A.A.A. received Pirie's entry forms yesterday. This seems to confirm my impression that Pirie is undecided which event to tackle.

Each entry costs the athlete 10s. Entering both races has cost Pirie £1. His Scottish blood would forbid him to invest £1 if 10s. would do!

I have no doubt that Gordon would like to qualify for the 10,000-metres Olympic event at Rome. He keeps up that hope of winning two Olympic gold medals.

Pirie should forget it and concentrate solely on the 5,000 metres. We have plenty of good 10,000-metre talent. Far too much for us to allow the false economy of letting one man try to do the work of two.

## The target

Make the three-mile championship your target in the A.A.A. White City title hunt, Gordon. You need all the top-class competition you can get before you tackle the 5,000 metres at Rome.

# Olympic place cost £1000'-Pirie

That restless doyen of British distance runners, Gordon Pirie, is on the move again. First he has a caravan he wants to park alongside some suitable training ground for the next few weeks.

Then he plans to go to Freiburg, Germany, to complete his preparation for the Olympic Games—and about Christmas he will be off to New Zealand again.

Placing the caravan has not been easy, but Pirie thinks he has found a suitable spot near the Watford track. There he can train with his latest "find" Mike Wiggs, whose home is at nearby Rickmansworth.

Immediately after the AAA championships Pirie will go back once again to Freiburg and his famous coach, Waldemar Gerschler.

"I had intended to go after the Whitsun Games, but stayed because I was picked for the England-Italy match," says Pirie.

## CITIZENSHIP

Pirie does not want to become subject to the various regulations of the home government, and he retains his New Zealand citizenship only so long as he does not spend half of the fiscal year here.

He has, however, been here so long since his return that he

## HE PLANS TO TRAIN AT WATFORD AND IN GERMANY

by  
**Harold Palmer**

wants to stay at Freiburg and move from there to Rome just in time for the Games.

"If Olympic rules did not limit an athlete to representing only one country in the Games I would have qualified for New Zealand this time," he said. "In fact, it has cost me something like £1000 to come back here and bid for a place in the Great Britain team."

## SURE OF PLACE

Pirie can count on a place in the team. He hopes to be picked for both the 5000 and 10,000 metres. By next week he will probably have done the qualifying time for both, as well as for the 1500 metres.

He has the second best 1500

metres time in Britain so far this year, 3 min. 44.1 sec. (Olympic qualifying mark, 3 min. 45 sec.) and the second best three miles time, 13 min. 30.8 sec. (nearly 15 sec. inside the qualifying time).

He is entered for the three and six miles races in the AAA championships next week, but tells me he will go only for the six miles.

## CROYDON RACE

The only six miles he has run this year was in the Brockman Trophy meeting at Croydon on June 18.

In a temperature of 85 degrees he could do no better than 29min. 38sec., whereas he has in the past run this distance between 28min. 19sec. and 28min. 30sec. no fewer than 10 times and the Olympic qualifying standard is 28min. 45sec.

New Zealander Murray Halberg has led the way in three and six mile times over the past year, and several Russians particularly Pyotr Bolotnikov and Aleksandr Artinyuk, have been setting a hot pace, too. Medals are not going to be easily won in Rome.



Gordon Pirie, the Olympic runner, and his wife Shirley taking delivery of their Fairholme Romeo caravan from Mr. Colin Thomas, sales manager of Fairholme Products Ltd. If he is selected for the British team, they will take the caravan to Rome for this year's Olympic games



GORDON PIRIE, watched by his wife, SHIRLEY,



# Gordon Pirie returns to disaster race

## TWIN ROME CHANCE

By TERRY O'CONNOR  
MEMORIES of triumphs and disasters will come back to Gordon Pirie when he runs in the six miles at the A.A.A. championships tonight.

He has paid 10s. entrance fee for the privilege of wiping out the memories of 1954 and 1955, when he failed to finish in the six miles.

In 1954 he broke a foot and a year later ran a lap short and collapsed with the heat, believing he had won.

During the past four years he has missed the six miles, but he is now lured back by the attraction of competing in two events at Rome.

### Fears no one

Victory would give Pirie his first A.A.A. title since 1953. Then he set a world six-mile record of 28min. 19.6sec.—still his fastest time over the distance.

It has been suggested in athletic circles that Pirie has chosen the long race to avoid meeting the bare-footed United Kingdom record holder Bruce Tulloh in the three miles tomorrow. This is unwarranted as Pirie has never feared any rival.

Yet at the same time he has not added to his popularity with



JOHN MERRIMAN  
Pirie's main rival



STAN ELDON  
Title in peril

other athletes by contacting board officials to ensure he will not be overlooked for the Olympic 5,000 metres by running in the six miles.

Pirie made it clear to me yesterday that he would not compete in the three miles "unless I run the six miles in 27 minutes." This time is 43.8sec. better than the world record!

Inter-counties six-mile champion

John Merriman is delighted Pirie is running tonight. "It will make it a better race to win," he said.

Merriman and Pirie share similar views on tonight's race. Both are running just to win, but they believe Stan Eldon's national record of 28min. 5sec. will be broken.

### Stamina

While Pirie has been flirting successfully with shorter races, Merriman has concentrated on distance events. His record this year proves he has the stamina, speed, and temperament to win.

It would be wrong to suggest this is a two-man race, for title-holder Eldon, Martin Hyman, Alan Perkins, and George Knight are also in the field.



TO ALL COMPETITORS IN THE A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE BEST OF ROMAN LUCK FOR THE OLYMPICS.

AMULYETT

A.A.A. 6 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP WHITE CITY 1968

# GORDON'S FINISH 'KILLS' HYMAN

By DESMOND HACKETT

GORDON PIRIE, the arrogant athlete, swept past gasping, muscle-tortured opposition and was looking over his frail shoulder as he won the A.A.A. six-miles championship at London's White City last night in 28min. 9.6sec.—his best time for the distance.

When this Prince of Pacemen Pirie almost lounged into the lead in the last 100 yards it was the first time in 24 laps that he had headed the field.

He permitted lesser men to gallop along and make whatever their lungs and feet allowed them.

But this lean, stalk-like man was always present, watching with the air of a kindly uncle playing with the children and ensuring that none did himself a mischief.

The career cop champion, Stan Eldon, scuttled industriously along and once surged into a 10-yard lead before he was left in the last mile a man on a lonely beat whose short, staccato paces left him hopelessly behind.

The final act in this duel of the run was left to lanky, high-stepping Martin Hyman, sturdy little John Merriman, and inevitably, Gordon Pirie.

### SO RIGHT

The crowd still love this man Pirie, the last of the great characters of what was once a considerable breed of British distance runners.

A roar soared up into the gentle, blue, cloud-framed sky, the old, familiar roar of "Come on, Gordon."

You felt that now everything was in its proper place and that you were watching yet another performance of a hit show.

Hyman tried so desperately to power his way into a commanding lead in that last, long, tearing, muscle-racking lap, the last quarter after five and three-quarter treadmill miles.

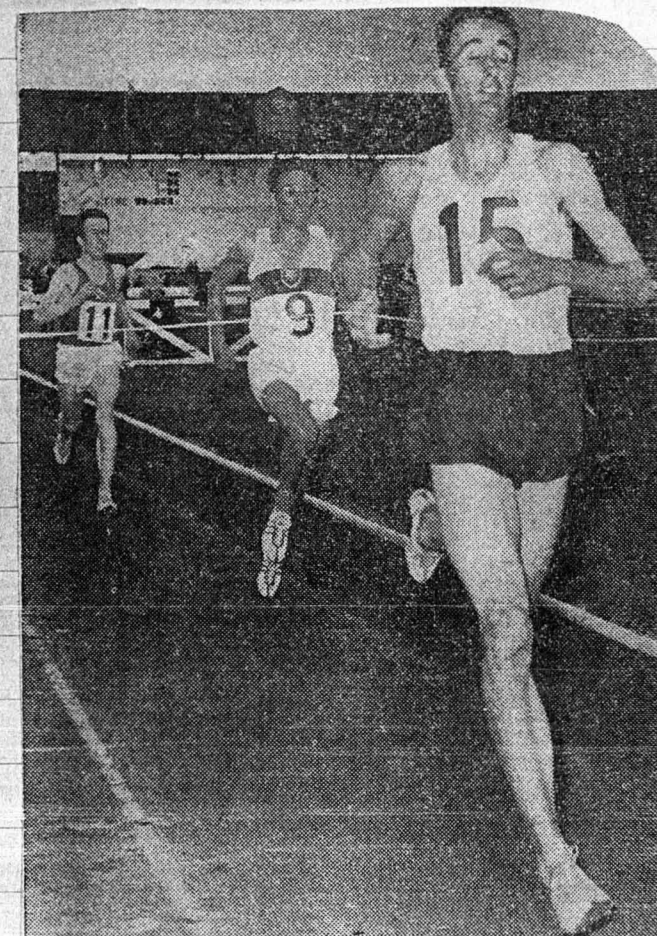
But Pirie was there, poised for the moment when he would choose to command the affairs of this race.

The Pirie legs suddenly and so effortlessly thrashed their way into the lead and there was not a man present who could even make a pretence of challenging his track mastery.

And when Pirie had flawlessly performed his party piece, he said: "It was an easy race until the last three laps when Hyman and Merriman dug in. I shall not be racing in the three miles, in fact I shall not be here even to watch it. I shall spend the afternoon just jogging around."

Hyman revealed that he had been treated by an injection to deaden ankle trouble. He finished his gallant race with his ankle badly swollen and inflamed.

This Pirie performance made other events of the day, in which many strove for titles and hoped for places in the Olympic tests, appear inconsequential.



Success! Once again Gordon Pirie is home first, in front Martin Hyman and John Merriman.

1st	D.G. PIRIE.	SOUTH LONDON HARLEI	28min 9.6sec
2nd	M. HYMAN.	PORESMOUTH	28min 10.2sec
3rd	J.L. MERRIMAN.	WATERS HARLEI	28min 10.8sec
4th	S.E. ELDON.	WIMBOR	28min 19.8sec
5th	A.S. WOOD.	SCOTLAND	28min 41.6sec
6th	A.V. PERKINS.	LEWIS	28min 52.6sec



# THE GREATS

**L**AST Summer Gordon Pirie was reckoned to be off the gold standard on the road to Rome. Now, after his come-back double in the 1,500 and 3,000 metres at the News of the World British Games, Pirie could end up not only British Athlete of the Year but also of the Decade.

For the Thin Man of the Track, who runs in the 1,500 metres against Italy at London's White City on Wednesday, is now joint favourite with New Zealander Murray Halberg and Jimmy, of Poland, for the Olympic 5,000 metres.

Why do I say Pirie is likely to stand out as the track star of this decade? What about Bannister, Chataway, Brasher, Ibbotson and the rest?

For one thing Pirie has lasted longer, and at 29, he is as good as ever. He is better than ever as a tactician.

Any athlete with outstanding ability can become a champion.

But to remain at the top through a decade or more of fierce competition and to recapture the old spark when it seemed to have gone requires extraordinary self-discipline.

Gordon is an amateur in the truest sense.

Though he's been running since the age of nine he has made precious little cash even indirectly from the sport to which he has devoted the best years of his life.

Pirie has never been offered one of the cream jobs. He emigrated to New Zealand.

where he intends to return at the end of this Olympic year.

But he is so determined to win a Gold Medal, having missed out at Helsinki in 1952 and Melbourne four years ago, that he has come home to Britain at his own expense.

He is without a regular job. He pays his own fares to Freiburg to consult with his coach, Waldemar Gerschler, whom even many Germans shun because he trains them too hard.

## HIS DIET

**L**OOK at the Pirie way of life—or lack of it—in this his final Olympic year.

Ten miles running every day, 10 hours' sleep every night. A diet almost as fastidious as that of Dr. Barbara Moore. No holidays, no parties, and seldom a visit to a cinema.

By September he will have run nearly 2,000 miles in training and in competition.

And all the time he has the approval of an understanding wife Shirley, herself a former sprinter.

Gordon goes for raw oats

with molasses and Barbados sugar, steaks and salads.

And included in this diet recommended by a Norwegian is unpolished rice, raw vegetables, fresh fruit and corn oil.

The man in the street will ask: "Is this hair-shirt way of life worth it?" Only Pirie the unpredictable and athlete extraordinary can answer this. He has no doubts.

I've become an admirer of this ascetic athlete who, in his early days, gave the impression of being big-headed and rude at times.

Pirie has proved his sincerity as well as his ability.

He has done more for British athletics with no gain to himself than any other star of the track of recent years.

The public love Pirie, the Peerless Showman, who thrilled them last week-end and will probably thrill them with another victory at the White City on Wednesday.

## SACRIFICES

**B**UT there is another Pirie. Few realise that Gordon is not always the Lone Star Wolf of the Track. Not infrequently he passes on his knowledge and experience in coaching youngsters.

It is another gesture from a man who really gives much more than he takes from athletics.

I hope Galloping Gordon can make that Gold Medal at his third and last attempt. No runner in the history of the Olympics has worked harder or sacrificed so much.



Pirie's protégé, the tall, road-shouldered Mike Wiggs (Thames Valley H.) who finished second behind the Hungarian Laszlo Tabori in the AA mile, is the board's only hope at present for the 1,500 metres.

# DISTANCE RACES

By BOB TREVOR

**GORDON PIRIE** has been given a third chance for an Olympic double—5,000 and 10,000 metres—in the provisional list of athletes announced by the selectors, to go to Rome next month.

Pirie was chosen for these events both in the Helsinki Olympics of 1952 and those at Melbourne four years ago, but his best so far was a silver medal in the 5,000 metres in Australia.

Pirie clinched his pace in the 10,000 with a brilliant six miles at White City on Friday. He so eclipsed the opposition in the final lap that if the early pace had been stepped up a world record seemed his for the taking.

Gordon Pirie is in line for another world record—a record with a difference. The selectors yesterday named him to run in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres track events in Rome. This will be the third time he has competed for both these titles at an Olympiad.

The present record for appearances in these two Olympic races stands to Paavo Nurmi, the most famous of all the flying Finns. He raced three times in the 5,000 metres and twice in the 10,000 metres.

Although the selections are not final, the distance places are almost certainly settled.

In the shorter race Pirie will be accompanied by Finchley's Frank Salvat—winner of the AAA three-mile title, and Bruce Tulloh.

Martin Hyman and John Merriman, second and third to Pirie in the AAA six miles, made up the 10,000 metres trio.

## In comes Pirie's young disciple

By HARRY CARPENTER

**T**WO lucky young men heard the great news yesterday: they are picked for Britain's Olympic athletics team. Behind the bare announcement lay two stories with a romantic touch.

Laurie Reed, 6ft. 3in. Coulsdon, Surrey, runner, has striven for years to emulate his idol and tutor, Gordon Pirie, at long-distance running.

Now he goes to Rome as a 1,500-metre man against the superb Herb Elliott. Yet Laurie has run only twice at the shorter distance.

John Wenk, when he heard he'd been chosen at 800 metres, rang up his father to thank him for the wonderful 21st birthday present that made it possible.

## Imitation

But, first, 24-year-old Reed. From the time he took up running in the Boy Scouts, this lean, lanky loper hero-worshipped Pirie, who lived just round the corner.

At the London bank where he works, Reed yesterday recalled: "Gordon got interested in me while I was still at school. I did everything he told me. I even modelled my running style on him."

But Pirie remained the big star at three and six miles—while Reed shone now and again in minor races.

This season, the same old story: "I realised I could never make the 5,000 or 10,000 metres in Rome," says Laurie. "So I just had to make a bid for the 1,500 metres."

## Rewarded

Yesterday came the reward. Reed joins Mike Wiggs as Britain's best in the 1,500 metres.



## Thrives on it

Pirie won't give details of the tough course worked out for him, but says: "You've first got to find a runner who can do it. A number of German athletes just shook their heads when they were told about it and said it was impossible."

But the 22-year-old Wiggs, son of a Rickmansworth builder, is, I hear, thriving on the preparation and while Rome may be too near for him, the hard work could soon be paying such dividends as he could have hardly foreseen a year ago.

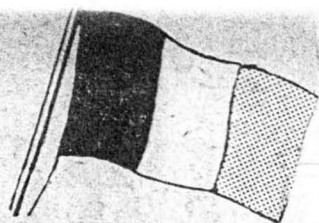
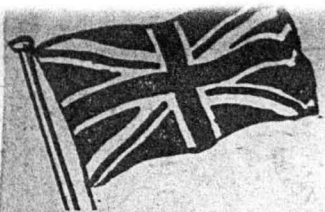
Gerschler refuses to discuss about his methods, and says that it would not be in the interest of British athletics to reveal them. "But after Rome I can talk," he says.

## Strong demands

The method is based on a combination of exertion and rest, placing strong demands on the muscular system and making the heart beat more slowly by making it bigger and stronger.

Pirie goes to Rome with high hopes.





5,000 METRES.

AT THE WHITE CITY, LONDON.

1960.



PIRIE

... A feud on the run is forgotten in the cause of his country



SALVAT

... The man who runs on a pint promises to help his great rival.

BERNARD

... 'Fastest man in the race' with a national record to prove his pace



BOGEY

... The new track star. Can he shock Britain's athletes today?



"Now go to sleep, darling, or the bogey man will get you!"

## Pirie even f

**BEAK - NOSED** Robert Bogey, schoolmaster sensation of London's White City on Saturday, confessed to me he is scared of today's meeting with Gordon Pirie, writes **SAM LEITCH.**

**PIRIE.** What magic there is about this name which strikes fear into foreigners—even though they are brilliant trackmen like Frenchman Bogey, who had just run the fastest 10,000 metres

spreadeagled Pirie's times for this grinding distance).

This slender, blond 24-year-old did not attempt to conceal his extravagant admiration for Gordon when I spoke to him after his hipetty-hopetty success in 29min. 1.6sec. He confessed:

"I will run in the 5,000 metres. But Pirie, I know, will be too good for me. He is so fast and I think the distance is really too short for me."

Nevertheless, his clash with Pirie and the jet-fast finish of Frank Salvat this afternoon should jerk some sorely-needed life into the international fixture with France.

These two supreme individual



1. G. PIRIE.	Brum	51.6 sec
2. F. SALVAT.	Brum	52.8 sec
3. M. BERNARD.	Brum	58.2 sec
4. R. BOGEY.	Brum	58.8 sec



As always ... Gordon Pirie first through the tape, the rest, apparently nowhere. This is the finish of the 5,000 metres at the White City, with Pirie still full of running. Frank Salvat is a distant second with the French pair tailed off.

## GORDON PIRIE the Magnificent CAN win a Gold Medal for Britain in the 5,000 metres event in the Rome Olympics.

After watching Pirie's fantastic victory in the 5,000 metres international event against France at the White City today, I am convinced that it will take a superman to beat him over this distance in Rome.

With a blistering last lap of 54.6 seconds, Pirie surged home a clear winner from team-mate Frank Salvat in 13 minutes 51.6 seconds, the second fastest race over the distance in the world this year. He looked an Olympic winner all the way.

But there is no fear of 29-year-old Pirie holding any false illusions about the task that faces him when he bids to repeat this triumph in Rome.

"Existing best times for 5,000 metres will mean NOTHING when the race starts for that Olympic Gold Medal," Pirie told me after his victory today. "I must put in a lot more hard training yet."

If ever a runner deserves an Olympic title it is Pirie. He travels to Germany again this week for Olympic tuning from his coach, Woldemar Gerschler. And he will be back to have his final race before setting off to Rome in the Emsley Carr Mile at this same White City track on Saturday week.

Don't take the 3.2 seconds margin of Salvat's defeat today too seriously. For the Finchley runner, satisfied that Britain was safely into the first two places, eased his stride considerably in the last 50 yards.

He had certainly done his job well. Particularly when Michel Bernard, of France, who had set a fast pace most of the way, threatened to try a breakaway 300 yards from home.

Salvat, cleverly placed, sensed the threat, and straight away accelerated with a tremendous burst. Pirie strode after him at the same fantastic speed.

The French had absolutely no answer to the power that came from the lungs and legs of the





3,000 metres International Race KREFELD, Germany, 1960

KREFELD (W. Germany) — 3,000 metres: 1. G. Pirie, 8min. 4.4sec.; 2. M. Wiggs (Thames Valley H.D., 8-7.4.



GORDON PIRIE (left) will run in the 3000 metres and MIKE WIGGS

## Grandma helps Pirie

By TERRY O'CONNOR

GORDON PIRIE relaxed over lunch and told me he will have run 50,000 miles — or twice round the world — by the time he reaches the Rome Olympic Games next month to compete in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres for the third time.

I was wondering why a man should torture himself like this — and that is the only description of a Pirie training session I had just witnessed — when Britain's master runner confused me further by saying it had only been possible because of his wife's grandmother. "If Shirley [Gordon's wife] had not received a legacy from her grandmother I would have been unable to devote the time necessary to train as I must for Rome," he said, sipping an iced orangeade.

With that settled it seemed only natural to ask why it was so important to win an Olympic title. I suppose it was also natural that a man like Pirie should answer: "I want to win every race."

"A world record is much more important than an Olympic victory. Only then can an athlete claim to be the best. Some of the

finest performers miss the Games due to an injury. For example, Bill Nieder, the leading shot-putter in the world, will not be representing the U.S. in Rome."

I felt Pirie, now 29, was deceiving himself and pointed out he had already broken three individual world records and shared in two others in relays,

but had tried four times in vain for an Olympic gold medal.

Why, then, do you go on living a monastic existence and pounding out the miles?

"I go on because I am not satisfied."

Look what you have lost by devoting your life to running.

"Lost?" Pirie seemed horrified at the suggestion. "But for athletics I would have been caught in the rut of a civilized existence, catching the same train to work every day."

### Victory

"Running has taken me twice round the world (literally this time) and given me the opportunity to learn foreign languages."

Is victory really SO important?

Pirie seemed at first perplexed at the question. Then I noticed the same glint I had seen many times before when he had hunched his shoulders and driven victoriously to the tape.

"During a race winning is the only thing which matters, but afterwards I often feel sorry for my rivals. Like the time in 1956 when I beat Vladimir Kuts in a new world record of 13min. 36.8sec. He was like a little boy who had lost a toy."

Pirie recalled with genuine pity the crestfallen expressions of the three Hungarians — Rozsavolgyi, Iharos, and Tabori — when he beat them to establish his existing world record of 7min. 52.8sec. for 3,000 metres.

### Failure

Pirie then recalled a failure — his defeat in the Olympic 10,000 metres at Melbourne four years ago, when his legs turned to rubber after trailing the Russian Kuts for five miles.

Without a trace of emotion, he said: "My mind went dead with my body. I only knew I had to finish, even in the dark."

Pirie might refuse to admit the importance of an Olympic victory, but he cannot disguise a fierce desire to wipe out the memory of that failure.

How better than to link his name forever as an Olympic

## Pirie is told to travel with team

By ROY MOOR

GORDON PIRIE has asked for permission to travel to the Olympic Games from his training quarters in Freiburg, Southern Germany. It has been turned down by the British Board.

"We are going to Rome as a team," said team manager Leslie Fusslow, "and for that reason we think it only right that Pirie should be with us when we set off."

Reports yesterday indicated that Pirie was planning to race over 3,000 metres on Saturday in Berne, Switzerland, where the American Olympic team will be competing.

### No authority

A Board spokesman said last night: "This is news to us. We have sent Pirie no authority to race in Berne, and we could not consider doing so unless the official invitation for him to compete is made through the Swiss Federation."

"We have got to abide by the international rules to safeguard our athletes — especially at a time like this."

## 5,000 m test

GORDON PIRIE plans to race Jim Beatty, the American champion, over 5,000 metres in Berne on Sunday and not in the 3,000 metres there on Saturday.

This has been decided by Pirie's German coach, Wolde-mar Gerschler. Permission for Pirie to race is being sought from the British Board.

Professor Gerschler told me from Freiburg, Southern Germany, last night: "After his long rest and training here it is imperative that Pirie has a good race before he goes to Rome. He has built up such strength that he just has got to let off steam, and Berne provides the only opportunity for him to get the top-class competition he now needs."

### Wiggs, too

Is Pirie planning an attempt on the world 5,000 metres record of 13min 35sec held by Vladimir Kuc, of Russia?

Gerschler would only say: "It is essential for his Olympic preparation that Pirie runs inside 14 minutes in this race."

MIKE WIGGS, the Thames Valley miler, who is training with Pirie in Germany, is also to have a Berne tryout at his Olympic distance of 1,500 metres, against opposition which includes America's No. 1 Dyrrol Burleson.

JOHN MERRIMAN — 10.000

## AMERICANS OUTPACE PIRIE

From ROY MOOR: Berne, Switzerland, Sunday

GORDON PIRIE'S chances of winning the Gold Medal in the Olympic Games 5,000 metres in Rome next week looked decidedly poorer here this evening. He finished a leg-weary third behind the Americans, Jim Beatty and Bill Dellinger, in a 3,000 metres event.

The American team manager asked for the distance to be cut from 5,000 metres, and Pirie had no objection — he is world record-holder for the 3,000 metres.

All Pirie wanted was a chance to let off some of the steam he was thought to be building up, but he had nothing left for the testing last lap.

Pirie, whose time of 8min. 17.4sec. compares with his own record of 7min. 52.8sec., and Beatty's 8min. 16.4sec., was not the only — or the biggest — disappointment here.

Watching these workmanlike American athletes for two days has left me with the impression that there are not going to be many gold medals left for any other country to win in the track and field events in Rome.

As for Pirie, no doubt his performance will be subject of some hard thinking when he returns to his German training camp in the morning. Pirie was disappointed but not unduly worried. He told me: "I had no pace in my legs at all. I was aware of it on the first lap. It's probably the outcome of all the hard training I have done, but there is still plenty of time to put things right."

A lap to go, he seemed to be comfortably trailing the leader, American Bob Soth, and with 300 yards to go I was expecting his big explosive effort. It didn't come.

Instead, 200 yards from the finish, four-minute miler Beatty, who had been in last position nearly all the way, made a sudden break for the tape.

Pirie gave chase round the final bend, but there was no "kick" in his pace, and to the amazement of the 20,000 crowd another American, Dellinger,

## HE CAN RUN IN BERNE

From ROY MOOR

BERNE (Switzerland), Friday. — Gordon Pirie has been given an official all-clear to race the American Olympic athletes over 5,000 metres here on Sunday. I broke the news to him tonight.

He had waited until late afternoon at his training headquarters in Freiburg, in the Black Forest, hoping to get the clearance from London, and when it did not arrive, he and stable companion, Mike Wiggs made the three-hour drive to Berne to seek fuller information.

Fortunately, I learned from the board before I left that their vote was in favour of both of them racing here this weekend.

### Target: A record

The mystery is: What happened to the cable the board sent Pirie as soon as they reached their decision?

Perhaps it went to one of the two other Freiburgs in West Germany!

I gather Pirie's target in Sunday's race will be the track record of 13min. 56.6sec. made by his old rival Vladimir Kuc, of Russia, when he sensationally beat Emil Zatopek and Chris Chataway in the European Games six years ago.



## ALPEJSKIE IGRASZKI

Podczas pobytu w Szwajcarii z okazji ostatniego międzynarodowego mityngu lekkoatletycznego w Bernie, rozegranego w przededniu Igrzysk, czołowi aktorzy rzymskiej Olimpiady próbowali swych sił w narodowych sportach ojczyzny Włochów. Oto w miejscowości Grindelwald położonej w Alpach, fenomenalny młotacz amerykański Bill Nieder (zdjęcie u dołu z lewej) wziął udział w rzucie kamieniem, a dwaj inni reprezentanci USA: średniodystansowiec Ernie Cunliffe i 400-metrowiec, członek sztafety 4x100 m Jack Yearmanna (zdjęcie u dołu z prawej) zmierzili się w zapasach, przywdziani w szwajcarskie spodnie, które w tego rodzaju zmaganiach odgrywały podstawową rolę. Natomiast znakomity długodystansowiec angielski Gordon Pirie (zdjęcie u góry) popisywał się grą na „regu alpejskim" zdumiewając miejscowych Szwajcarów siłą swych płuć.

## Pirie takes own Rome masseur

GORDON PIRIE is taking his own masseur with him to the Olympic Games in Rome. He is Derek Nicholl, a professional lawn tennis coach from Surrey, who has discovered the perfect massage treatment for Pirie.



## As her husband 'tunes up' for the Olympics

THE loneliness of the long distance runner has nothing on the unconvivial lot of his wife.

To be married to a man who has devoted the bulk of his adult life striving to put one leg in front of the other more proficiently than anyone else in the world requires the sort of stamina that cannot be measured on a stop watch.

Shirley Pirie, wife of that athlete-extraordinary Gordon, appears to be such a woman.

During her four years of marriage she has had no home of her own, her husband has never had a regular job, her social life has never been allowed to interfere with his stringent daily training, and she has coped with demands for the sort of food that would drive the average housewife insane.

But when Mrs. Pirie talks about her husband she's talking about her favourite subject. Sitting relaxed and happy in an elegant, borrowed sitting-room she described what she has come to accept as a normal day.

### Raw porridge

GORDON gets up at nine o'clock in the morning—he likes to sleep late. Then we have breakfast. Breakfast consists of raw porridge—you crunch it up, it's rather nice once you get used to it—sultanas, boiled eggs, and rye bread. Gordon only eats rye bread.

"Then he goes out on the downs for a couple of hours' training. He comes back for a rest and lunch. Lunch is usually a dish of unpolished rice, raw vegetables, and cheese."

"Gordon is a bit erratic about his food. Sometimes he's a vegetarian and will only eat cheese—and sometimes he fancies steak."

"After lunch, if he feels like it, he goes out to work. At the moment this means selling a few cameras for commission."

"But he doesn't go out of his way as a salesman as he's writing a book this year."

"Anyway, towards the end of the afternoon he goes along to Croydon track and trains for another three hours or so. He comes home for dinner, but by then he's probably so tired he goes straight to bed. We never go to parties or the theatre or anything like that. Gordon



MRS. PIRIE

# How I keep up with him!

told yesterday by

**Mrs. GORDON PIRIE**

### Enough!

NEITHER of the Pories drinks alcohol, tea, or coffee, and they don't smoke. Although Shirley has herself held two world records for sprinting, she feels that one runner in the family is enough of a strain.

"I kept up with my own running for a couple of years and I still train with Gordon now, but it became impossible when we both used to come home worn out and irritable. One of us had to give it up—and Gordon was the better runner. I had the most patience."

### Arrogance

AS a personality, Gordon Pirie has been criticised for his temper, his cockiness, and his arrogance. He is a hero, but not a particularly popular one.

"If Gordon appears to be arrogant," says Shirley, "it is because he is a perfectionist. If he decides to do anything you can be sure he is going to do it really well. So he doesn't have much patience with people

### 'Mother' to athletes

MOLLY JACKSON, middle-aged and jolly, has never seen an athletics meeting in her life and probably never will. Yet the Olympic Games hold for her a very personal interest. At her hotel, the Windsor, at Lancaster Gate, London, she's a virtual mother to Britain's team now assembling there before the Rome airlift.

I asked her who had the largest appetite. "Without a doubt, Arthur Rowe," she replied. Apparently he consumes three-quarters of a pound of steak for breakfast and at lunch-time calls for an even larger portion or perhaps a whole chicken. By way of contrast Gordon Pirie has a preference for oats and raisins. "A very nice boy who is really hurt deep inside when he gets any criticism," is Mrs. Jackson's verdict on him.



"But hundreds of old ladies, who don't know it's a misprint, have started knitting him sweaters."

become an extremist about it now. Whatever he had decided to take up would have become an obsession with him. That's the way he is."

It is very likely that Gordon Pirie will retire from the track after this year's Olympic Games. And for the third time, the Pories are going to try to settle in New Zealand.

"Retiring from international athletics is never going to stop Gordon's efforts to keep fit. And we both think New Zealand is a healthy place to live. Gordon gets very annoyed about the filthy air we breathe here."

### A caravan

BOTH the Pories want to have their own home and children. "Not long ago we bought a washing machine and a sewing machine—our first big possessions—and Gordon was the first to play with them."

"We tried living in a caravan so that Gordon could always be

near a track. He enjoys it, but there are only two beds, a large one and a very narrow bunk. And I kept falling out of the bunk, so it wasn't such a good idea after all."

At this point Gordon Pirie came back from a three-hour canter. Several feet of bare legs, topped by tiny, Continental shorts, a striped shirt, and the strained Pirie face, for once not puffing, came into the room.

He sat down and proceeded to examine one precious foot. "I hear you're thinking of retiring," I said.

He thought about it carefully. "Ah, well," he said, "you can't concentrate on just one thing for ever—you'd turn into an eccentric."

## Pirie's Olympic training is make-or-break

It takes all sorts to make an Olympic village. The babel of tongues, the clash of colours, the tangle of types—it is all here, just as it has been in all the other modern Olympics.

Our own band of competitors who marched about 100-strong for last night's flag-raising ceremony, looked smart enough, but a rather sober party compared with the many colourful types around them.

Free-and-easy New Zealander from Auckland, Murray Halberg, rated one of the favourites for both 5000 and 10,000 metres, is a laboratory assistant at a brewery. "I drink beer, who doesn't? I live first. Sport has to come second. I did six miles last night. Way back, when I was conditioning myself, I ran the marathon distance every week."

Now contrast this with the way Gordon Pirie and Mike Wiggs are submitting to the pre-Olympic training of Waldemar Gerschler, Herr Direktor of P.E. at Freiburg University—and for Wiggs, who runs in the 1500 metres in Rome, this is his 1964 training, too.

It is an ordinary schedule into which Pirie has lured his protegee Wiggs. This is the training that makes or breaks.

In one session of little more than one hour Pirie breaks 30 seconds for 300 metres no fewer than 19 times and the only rest allowed between each run is just long enough (NEVER LONGER THAN 45 SECONDS) for the pulse-rate to simmer down to 100.

Both runners had a pulse rate of 84 before the start of the session I watched. To the end Pirie's never went above 168. Wiggs' maximum was 192.

Resting devices, tables, with light-angled supports to raise the legs, were set on opposite sides of the track. At the end of each run they leapt on to the table, their legs bent at the knees over the plywood construction.



A squad including the Gerschler family, father, mother and daughter, and Pirie's wife Shirley all helped in recording reactions.

They called the number of pulse beats for each five seconds and directly the call was nine, twice in succession, the runner leapt from his rest and raced back to the other side of the track.

Wiggs' eyes had a glassy stare at the end of 39 runs. "That's enough. Very good," said Gerschler, and Wiggs' inquisition was ended.

"I never know before the training how many runs they will do," Gerschler explained. "I watch their behaviour and their faces and decide by that."

Gordon has the heart that comes once in 10 years," he added. "Mike is just the one that comes in a few years, but we can make his heart grow."

Then Gerschler committed himself to this prediction: "We can make Wiggs the man of the world at 5000 metres in three years."



GORDON PIRIE . . . no ordinary schedule.

### Looks Like a Mistake

THIS fabulous searing heat—SHADE temperatures of over 100 degrees are the rule rather than the exception—is making a mockery of any kind of prediction about the track and field events—the very vertebrae of the Games—which start on Wednesday.

I am wondering whether we have not made a big mistake in bringing in our athletes so late—a large contingent of them arrived last night.

Are our outstanding track and field hopes like Gordon Pirie and Mary Bignal really going to have enough time to settle down in this bakery before they make their first competitive appearance?

It takes most people three or four days before they can even SLEEP properly.

PIRIE has to qualify on Wednesday in a heat of the 5000 metres (3 miles 188 yards).

On the same day, MARY BIGNAL has first to qualify for the long jump final, then appear in the heats of the 80 metres hurdles, next perform in the final of the long jump—we hope—and end up by appearing again in the semi-final of the hurdles.

That's a tough enough schedule for anyone anywhere. But for someone who doubtless has never experienced anything like this scorching dehydration it will be like a test in a crucible.

### Pirie Stays in Bed

THIS morning, those of the athletes who have arrived—there are still plenty to come—went out training, except half-miler Tom Farrell—the Divinity teacher who never runs on Sunday—and Pirie.

Pirie stayed in bed because he still felt a bit tired after his trip.

That I can well understand. He has flown from London to Rome after flying from Berne (Switzerland) to London to join the team, after flying from Germany to Berne for a 3,000-metres race, after flying from London to Germany to see his coach, Waldemar Gerschler. AND PICK THE BONES OUT OF THAT!



Speedy trio, Gordon Pirie with Carol Quinton, left, and Mary Bignal in London today to fly to Rome with the British athletics team.

Said this enthusiastic man Dyson: "Pirie knows he flopped in Berne, but the conditions were not in his favour. He has been training in Germany under conditions similar to those in Rome. I feel he will do us proud."

### WORRIED? NOT ME SAYS GORDON

At which point Pirie eased his slight frame into the room to inquire where he might train.

Dyson advised: "Don't train before five."

Pirie made no reply. He just accepted the directions to the practice track and silently moved away. Dyson explained: "We let the athletes follow their own plans. We only advise them." I doubt if Pirie will listen to any advice but his own.

Pirie, looking wonderfully fit, later made the brief comment: "I am not particularly worried about what has gone. I still think I will have them worried in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres."





**EMIL ZATOPEK**, the master runner of the last decade, told me today: "I think your Gordon Pirie is going to win at last." He was talking about the 5,000 metres—the race which will set the Olympics alight when the heats are run here tomorrow evening.

"Pirie is so experienced and clever I think he must win," said the Czech who won three Olympic gold medals in Helsinki in 1952—and one in London in 1948.

"What about Murray Halberg of New Zealand or Hans Grodotzki of Germany?" I asked. Surprisingly, he discounted their threat.

"Halberg is dangerous but Pirie has yet to reach his season's peak. Grodotzki is a fine runner but lacks the flair for the big race."

While we talked under a blazing sun, Pirie rested and recalled the dreams of ten years. Years in which he has sacrificed much for the sake of Olympic glory.

There are thousands of other athletes here who share similar hopes, but few have given so much devotion to their sport as Pirie.

Zatopek dismisses Pirie's flop at Berne just over a week ago, when he lost to two Americans.

### Centrepiece

"It is proof that he is now ready for the race of his life," said Zatopek.

It is going to be a tough race for Pirie tomorrow, but that is just what he wants to prepare himself for the real battle on Friday evening.

**5,000 METRES.**—From a British point of view the awesome truth is that the success of the British team at the 1960 Olympics will be judged at home on the results of the 5,000 and 10,000 metre races: in effect on the performance of one man—Gordon Pirie.

The stormy petrel of British athletics, Pirie is nevertheless an institution among middle distance runners the world over. He has been tempered in the furnace of world competition for ten years, held four individual world records, came fourth in the 5,000 metres in 1952 and second in 1956, been hardened by Zatopek and quenched by Kuts. Pirie, above all, is a realist.

He has been inflated and then deflated so many times by the Press and the public that his philosophy is now "I don't give a damn what they write, so long as they spell my name right." Pirie is the most feared man in the field, but he fears, above any, the New Zealander Murray Halberg, a small, thin man with a withered shoulder.

Pirie has never forgotten that Halberg beat him by 40 yards in the Empire Games three miles two years ago. Nevertheless, the realist Pirie knows that at the age of 29 this is his last chance to prove himself the world's greatest middle-distance runner—something which he and all his competitors know him to be.

Halberg and Pirie could conceivably run themselves into the track leaving East Germany's Hans Grodotzki to come through.





By LAURIE PIGNON, ROME, Wednesday

## GORDON PIRIE flopped tonight . . . grinding into the dust of the Olympic track Britain's victory hopes at the end of a shattering day of flops, flops, flops.

The arena echoed with the biggest ovation of the Games when Pirie, the dedicated Spartan who has endured 12 years of grueling training, set foot on the track.

The cheers died on their lips half-way through the qualifying 5,000-metre race. At the end Pirie was just a pale ghost of a man.

*He was not our only "golden" failure. Add the names of Arthur Rowe, Brian Hewson and Mary Bignal.*

But Pirie had been our Prince of Success. In

less than two miles he fell a pauper, dashing his dream of an Olympic double.

Listless and unhappy, he said: "I have no excuses. I just did not run well."

It was almost the same sad story as Melbourne four years ago except this time there wasn't a Kuts and it wasn't so hot.

Right from the start this fanatical extrovert was never in the race.

Fourth was his best position on reaching the sixth lap.

*After that Efimov of Russia and Albert Thomas of Australia put on a tiny bit of pressure and Galloping Gordon burst like a wet paper bag.*

There was no kidding this time. Pirie had lived for this day, which was meant to be one of triumph, not tears.

Twenty, 30, 40, 50 fantastic yards behind. The shocked people in the stadium could hardly believe their eyes.

And then, two laps from home, Pirie gave up

**T**WENTY years of dedication ended in abject failure for Gordon Pirie here tonight. A pale, lifeless copy of Galloping Gordon was beaten by half the track in the third heat of the Olympic Games 5,000 metres.

It was the crushing climax to a miserable day for Britain, and I have no hesitation in saying that Pirie left the Gold Medal behind on his German training track. All his powerful running was gone, and he finished eighth, over 200 yards behind Friederick Janke, of Germany.

I gave the warning that Pirie might be over-trained after watching him trail in behind lesser lights from America in Switzerland a fortnight ago. He has rested since that race, but THE DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE.

There seems no hope, as I look at him tonight, that he can rally in time to win a medal in the 10,000 metres on Thursday week.

Janke's time of 14min. 4sec. represents nothing more than a "stroll" for the real Pirie.

Pirie faltered at the half-way mark, and only will power kept him going.

### 'Not weak'

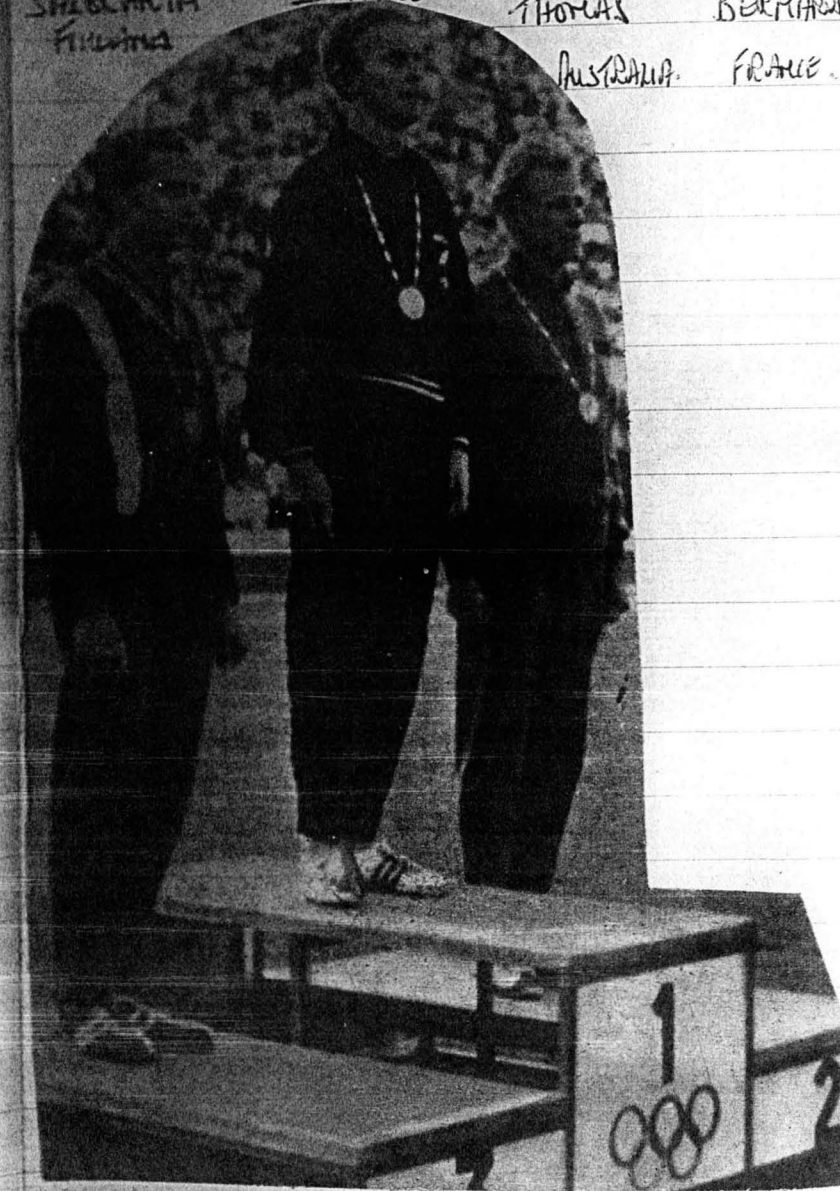
Yet Pirie said afterwards: "This won't affect my future training. I have no excuses. When the leaders started to increase the pace I could not hold them."

"I do not think you can blame the fact that we were not brought over here until Saturday."

Britain will have no finalist in the 5,000 metres, for Frank



SALORANTA FINLAND SAHRE THOMAS AUSTRALIA BERMANA FRANCE YEFIMOV USSR.



K. ZIMMY. POLAND M. HALBERG. NEW ZEALAND H. GRODOTSKI. GERMANY

pour la finale)  
I : 1. Grodotzki (All.), 14' 1" 2;  
2. Conti (It.), 14' 1" 6 (rec. Italie);  
3. Nyandika (Kenya), 14' 6"; 4. Zakharov (URSS), 14' 10" 2; 5. Hoeykinpuro (Finl.), 14' 21" 8; 6. Lee-naert (Belg.), 14' 24" 6; 7. Salvat (G.-B.), 14' 33" 2; 8. Merawi (Ethiopie), 14' 40" 8; 9. Beatty (E-U), 14' 43" 8; 10. Hoey (Irl.), 15; 11. Mukhtar (Irak), 15' 0" 6.  
Abandons : Aceltuno (Chili); Szekeres (Hong.).  
II : 1. Flosbach (All.), 14' 8" 4; 2. Iharos (Hong.), 14' 8" 6; 3. Artyniuk (URSS), 14' 9" 4; 4. Lawrence (Austr.), 14' 10"; 5. Ameur (Fr.), 14' 14"; 6. Oliveira (Port.), 14' 15" 6; 7. Kyle (Can.), 14' 25"; 8. Jochman (Pol.), 14' 30"; 9. Molins (Esp.), 14' 31"; 10. Said (Maroc), 14' 53" 6; 11. Bhathia (Inde), 15' 6" 5.  
III : 1. Janke (All.), 14' 4" 4; 2. Bernard (Fr.), 14' 4" 6; 3. Thomas (Austr.), 14' 6"; 4. Dellinger (E-U), 14' 8" 6; 5. Yefimov (URSS), 14' 14" 6; 6. Saloranta (Finl.), 14' 15" 2; 7. Bohaty (Tch.), 14' 30"; 8. Pirie (G.-B.), 14' 43" 6; 9. Hlotts (Grèce), 15' 1" 2; 10. Tseriwa (Rhod.), 15' 2" 8.  
IV : 1. Power (Austr.), 14' 3" 1; 2. Halberg (N-Z), 14' 3" 8; 3. Zimny (Pol.), 14' 7" 4; 4. Tulloh (G.-B.), 14' 17" 2; 5. Jurek (Tch.), 14' 31" 4; 6. Alonsius (Belg.), 14' 36" 8; 7. Soth (E-U), 14' 40" 4; 8. Szabo (Hong.), 14' 51" 6; 9. Barabas (Roumanie), 15' 11" 2; 10. Dalalic (Turq.), 15' 13" 6; 11. Aniset (Lux.), 15' 17"; 12. Shah (Pak.), 15' 43".  
Krzyskowiak (Pol.), forfait.

### THIN PHYSIQUE Withered Shoulder

Halberg, in physique, is the opposite, thin and with a drooping shoulder withered as a result of a Rugby accident when a boy. His race, too, was differently run for he had to hang on desperately to a diminishing lead.

Zimny, the Pole, led for the first mile in 4min 21 with Halberg last of the 12. Thomas (Australia) then took over but after two laps the pace flagged and Zimny went ahead again running the second mile in 4min 34. Meanwhile Halberg had been moving up, steadily and with just over three laps to go he raced smoothly into the lead and split the field.

Only Grodotzki went with him and even he was soon 10 yards behind. With two laps to go the gap was 20 yards and Halberg, looking round frequently, kept it at 20 until the bell.

Now he was dreadfully tired, able to keep going but not to accelerate. When he looked round with 300 yards to go, the gap had nearly halved and he seemed to stumble a little. But Grodotzki was now as tired as he and, as Halberg, after what must have seemed an endless straight, staggered through the tape and collapsed, his lead had not shrunk much more.

### 5.000 MÈTRES FINALE

1. M. HALBERG (N.-Zel.) 13' 43" 4  
2. GRODOTSKI (All.)... 13' 44" 6  
3. Zimny (Pol.) ..... 13' 44" 8  
4. Janke (All.), 13' 48" 8; 5. Power (Aust.), 13' 51" 8; 6. Nyandika (Kenya), 13' 52" 8; 7. Bernard (France), 14' 4" 2; 8. Flosbach (All.), 14' 8" 6; 9. Artyniuk (URSS), 14' 8" 8; 10. Iharos (Hong.), 14' 11" 4; 11. Thomas (Austr.), 14' 20" 4; 12. Conti (It.), 14' 34".



# his master's record

**P**YOTR BOLOTNIKOV, a 30-year-old close-cropped, fair-haired Russian, proved himself a worthy successor to his friend and adviser Vladimir Kuts, when he beat the finest distance field in the world to capture the 10,000 metres crown today, writes **TERRY O'CONNOR**.

Early rain and a temperature below 70 degrees made conditions ideal for the three British runners, including the once great Gordon Pirie.

But, like champions from many countries, they could not stand the cruel pace when Australia's Dave Power surged into a 67.4sec. lap with two-and-a-half miles still to go.

This split the field completely but 30-year-old Power failed to escape. On his tail followed the tall, blond German, Hans Grodtski, Bolotnikov, and another Russian, Desiatchikov.

## Wrong policy

Throughout the race Pirie followed Murray Halberg, the black-vested New Zealander who won the 5,000 metres, and was one of the favourites today. It was the wrong policy. Halberg told me frankly tonight "I just did not have it."

Neither did Pirie, who finished 10th. At least he had the consolation of passing the 5,000 metres mark some 20 seconds faster than when he was eliminated over that distance last week.

No one was capable of staying with Bolotnikov when he charged into the lead with Kuts-like determination just before the final lap. Grodtski and Power tried in vain to match his inspired sprint but could not.

## Beyond doubt

The result was put beyond doubt when Bolotnikov reached the home straight to overtake his colleague Zhukov. Instead of being lapped Zhukov paced the champion over the last 80 yards to an Olympic record of 28min. 32.2sec.

This was an impulsive, but hardly a sporting, gesture. Bolotnikov's time is 13.2 seconds better than that set by Kuts at Melbourne, and only 1.8 seconds outside the world record.

John Merriman, a 24-year-old Welshman who lives at Hemel Hempstead, was the best of our runners. Eighth in 28-52.6, he was the first British runner to break 29 minutes for this grueling distance.

He said later: "Up to half-way I thought it was quite fast, and I felt tired. But then, in the second half, they went about 10sec. faster than in the first half, and I was just not in the same class."

Merriman had looked like a challenger for one of the top places until Power intervened and changed the course of the race.

## Twice led

The high-stepping school-master Martin Hyman, who led twice early on, finished just behind Merriman, and Pirie followed some 70 yards behind.

It may seem sad that Pirie's Olympic career should finish with tenth place in the 10,000 metres, but in the past week many national champions have failed here in Rome.

There are always some men who lack the ability to rise to the greatest test. It seems Pirie belongs to this unhappy school.

At the same time he will never be forgotten for his ser-

## PIRIE'S LATEST EXCUSE

Read all about it

Rome, Thursday.

**GORDON PIRIE** said after today's 10,000 metres that he was "running beautifully," but had made a tactical error of staying with New Zealander Murray Halberg, whom he considered a certain winner.

"I just stayed with Halberg, even after he dropped back behind the leaders, because I thought he would make up the ground again."

"Then I realised that in order to win I would have to do an impossibly fast last 2,000 metres and I just gave up interest."

"I just picked the wrong man."

★

Pirie said he thought he could have kept up with Peter Bolotnikov or Hans Grodtski if he had picked them instead.

Pirie said it might be his last race. "I've rather lost interest now. These Games have been a big disappointment."

Then he added: "If I give up it will be because of the Press."

"The British newspapers have praised me when I was on top and said ridiculous things. And then when I have not done so well they have had nothing but criticism."

"It's when you're not doing too well that you



need encouragement. The British Press is the worst of any in this respect."

He added that he had plenty in reserve at the end of the race.

The track? It was "just like sand," he said, but had improved a little because of rain since the 5,000 metres.

"John Merriman has a big hole in his foot because you just slide all over the place on the track. I wasn't so bad because I had very long spikes."—Reuter.



M. HALBERG N.Z.  
5th 28min 48sec

M. HYMAN G.B.  
4th 28min 48sec

J. MERRIMAN G.B.  
8th 28min 52.6sec

D. Power. A. Rihawi. P. Bolotnikov. A. Desiatchikov.  
AUSTRALIA MOROCCO U.S.S.R. U.S.S.R.  
3rd 28min 38.2sec 1st 28min 32.3sec 4th 28min 39.6sec



PYOTR BOLOTNIKOV  
Russia's 10,000 winner



H. Grodtski. P. Bolotnikov. D. Power.  
2nd 28min 37.5sec



**Salvat** said in Rome today British athletes were fed up because they were brought out too late and not given a fair chance in the Olympic Games.

Mr Ted Hopkins, assistant manager of the British athletics team, said: "I do not know what to think about this."

"I don't want to criticise anybody without proof, but I admit it looks as if acclimatisation is at the root of our troubles."

Pirie, who failed to qualify for the 5,000 metres final, dismissed his chances in next week's 10,000 metres. "It is too late now to do anything about it."

Salvat, who also failed in the 5,000 metres, agreed with him.

An angry Pirie said: "We have all kept quiet about this long enough. Of course we were all flown out too late."

### No comparison

"We arrived only about four days before our heats in the 5,000 metres. As soon as we got on to the training track last Sunday we felt the sun hit us, and look what happened in the race. Both Frank and I were

unable to get peak performances out of our bodies."

"Acclimatisation is the only reason for it."

"We should have been brought out here at least a fortnight before. How can you expect to get used to this sun and these conditions in about four days. I admit we trained hard and were fit when we left England. But there is no comparison between the climates of the two countries."

"It is all very well for our officials and others to point out that our sprinters have done well. Of course they have. The heat helps sprinters."

"But in a 5,000 metres race it soon shows up whether or not you are acclimatised."

He said that the Australian Albert Thomas, world record holder for the two and three miles, and Allan Lawrence, third in the 10,000 metres at Melbourne, had told him they were still not running properly after 10 days in Rome, says Reuter.

How did he explain away the fact that the Germans have done well, even though they arrived in Rome only a day or two before.

"They are continentals and used to a different climate than our own," he said. "All these things come into it. How else can you explain the failure of our leading athletes on the first day?"

Frank Salvat commented: "I entirely agree. We needed much longer out here."

Talking of yesterday's 5,000 metres final Pirie said: "That race would have been very hard for me but not beyond my capabilities."

### Fantastic race

"True, Halberg (Murray Halberg of New Zealand, who won the Gold Medal) ran a fantastic race, but I think I can run a fantastic race, too."

Explaining how he felt, Pirie said: "When you run well you are light; you go along like a dream. Here you might be any old dope."

### Nothing Short of Tragic

The French have said that their athletes are all right at home but paralysed abroad. Blame has been flying about like feathers in a pillow fight. It carries just about as much weight.

Everybody seems to have lost sight of the most elementary fact. Of the 1,000-odd track and field athletes here in Rome, only 30 can win an individual gold medal. There are hundreds and hundreds of losers.

What distinguishes the gold medal winners? One thing above all: they leave nothing to chance. And there lies the reason for the defeats and disappointments. Except for one: Gordon Pirie. But, then, he is a special case.

His performance on Wednesday was nothing short of tragic. The British contingent in the Press-box could not believe their eyes. Here was a man's life-work and ambition slipping away.

Pirie has always been fanatical in his training. When Kuts destroyed him in that memorable 10,000 metres at Melbourne, he redoubled his efforts so that his body in future would be able to take unlimited punishment. How confident he has looked this summer!

Then he went to Germany for a final period of training before the Games—training of a demoniacal intensity. Fatigue built up in his muscles, and even 10-days' rest after

Asks DOUG WILSON, Our Man In Rome

**I** LISTENED to Gordon Pirie blowing his top yesterday. "We have all kept quiet about this long enough," the far-from-gay Gordon was saying. "Of course we were all flown out here too late."

"We should have been brought out at least a fortnight before. How can you expect to get used to this sun and these conditions in about four days?"

Gordon bemoaned his dismal flop in his heat for the 5,000 metres. About this week's 10,000 metres he was equally gloomy.

"It's too late now to do anything about it," he muttered.

### "MADNESS"

How did he explain away the fact that the Germans had done well, even though they arrived in Rome only a day or two before.

"They are Continentals and are used to a different climate than our own," he told reporters.

On the subject of the track Puffing Pirie was more pointed. "Bloody awful," he summed up.

I asked Gordon why he didn't say anything immediately after his race.

"I didn't want to speak in the heat of the moment," he told me. "However, now I have had time to consider I realise just what madness it was bringing us out so late."

Said Stan Vickers, who won a bronze medal for the 20-kilometres walk. "The humidity was just fantastic."

Sandy Duncan, secretary of the British Ama-

teur Athletics Board, went further.

"The medical committee of the British Olympic Association made a detailed study into the question of heat and recommended that the team should arrive at least five to seven days before their events," he said.

"The committee pointed out that even after 10 days only 85 per cent weather acclimatisation can be expected. We gave this information to the British Amateur Athletics Board but they apparently knew better."

I asked Geoff Dyson, Britain's track and field coach, about Pirie's statement and the growing support it is receiving in the British camp.

"At this stage I am not prepared to say anything," he said. "My job out here is to keep our team happy and their morale high. But when the games are over and I get back I'll say plenty."

### EMOTIONAL

There remains, however, this important question. Is Pirie right to blow his top at this stage?

Gordon's a nice guy. To me his outburst is typical of the highly charged emotional state certain people are getting into in Rome. A climax, if you like.

And, of course, it's not only affecting Britain. There have been some surprising national failures—and some surprising national successes.

Of course we all want our boys and girls to do well, but if they fail Britain doesn't have to go into mourning.

My heart filled with pride and I tingled with excitement as Anita Lonsbrough swam to a dramatic gold medal victory. I felt depressed when Pirie trudged into a weary eighth place in his 5,000 metres heat.

But win or lose, life still goes on. Don't let's get obsessed with Olympic gloom and glory. Well, that's my view.

## Carry on, Gordon —says Mrs. Pirie

Gordon Pirie's wife, Shirley, said in Rome today she would not like her husband to retire from running yet, despite his defeats in the Olympic 5000 and 10,000 metres.

Mrs. Pirie, herself, as Shirley Hampton, a former well-known athlete, was leaving with her husband by car for Freiburg, in Germany, where Pirie hopes to do some more training.

Gordon, who said yesterday he was thinking retiring, said today his retirement depended on his wife. Asked for her view, Mrs.



GERSCHLER: IT TAKES YEARS

# What drew me back here to the maestro

FREIBURG, MONDAY

**A**T Freiburg, on the edge of the Black Forest, there stands a monument to the German adage that if a job is worth doing, do it fanatically.

The Olympic sports stadium, all white concrete and antiseptic tiles, manicured grass, and carefully brushed cinders, hugs the side of the foothills.

Today, as the early morning mist clings to the wooded slopes, a pencil-slim, lonely man thrashes himself lap after lap around the track.

This is Gordon Pirie's way of blowing a public raspberry to those who wrote him off after Rome. But more than that, each lap is a public reiteration of his faith in himself and his German coach, Professor Waldemar Gerschler.

For Pirie has returned to the training prescribed by Professor Gerschler. The same remorseless training which failed to win him an Olympic medal.

Gerschler has been called Pirie's Maestro. His relation-

ship with the athlete has been likened to a marionette show with Gerschler pulling the strings.

His methods have been called everything from "inhuman" to "unsuccessful." And at present

by Michael Parkinson

## Gordon Pirie's Nerves—By His Trainer

ROME, Monday.

**G**ORDON PIRIE'S German trainer, Waldemar Gerschler, said here that he thought it was "Olympic nervous tension," rather than the heat, which caused the British runner's failure in the 5,000 metres.

Gerschler said Pirie was "sensitive to heat," but he would not over-emphasise the acclimatisation period of only four days as a factor in his failure. He had no great hopes for Thursday's 10,000 metres. "The mere fact of such a defeat makes one nervy," he added.

One thing is clear. If Gordon Pirie at 29 settles for the race track, both he and Professor Gerschler realise that for the first time the race is not to be measured in split seconds but in passing years.

he is smarting from an outspoken attack on his ideas in a German newspaper.

But Pirie, who remains as faithful in defeat as he did in success, says: "People ask me if my training lost me my races at Rome. The answer is that I came back here. I would not have done if Gerschler had been wrong. He is a great coach. He is not appreciated because his methods are too tough and there are few who would stand up to them."

"My trouble at Rome was a combination of bad planning and the weather."

Gordon Pirie propped his legs on a table, thought a bit, then said: "You know, when all is said and done, an Olympic medal is not so important."

"People seem to think that not getting one has been the greatest disappointment of my career. Well, they are wrong."

"My philosophy on running is not to be either elated at success or disappointed at failure."

"Each race is as important as the next to me. It is the public who build these races up, not me."

### SNIPING

**P**IRIE has other philosophies too. One deals with success. "It is always the same when you are at the top—people start sniping at you. It happened to me, it has happened to Professor Gerschler. Sometimes I think that to be mediocre, and therefore anonymous, would be no bad thing."

Pirie's next move is to Dublin, where he has been offered a job. But he says he will not settle there. "I want to go back to New Zealand. There is so much to do there. People in New Zealand do things all the time, unlike Britain where people watch things all the time."

"I feel now that I ought to do something besides running. I think I have matured. It always seemed before that running was the only thing in my life but there comes a time when you begin to think what you have missed."

### DIETING

**T**HEN Gordon Pirie, simply and like a child, said: "Do you know, I have never been on holiday since 1940. All the time I have been too busy training."

"I would love to go ski-ing, but I have never dared to in case I injured myself. I have often longed to sit down in a good restaurant and eat just what I felt like but I have had to watch my diet."

"Sometimes, when I think back on my career and realise I have held five world records, I wonder why I go on. I mean, I have become what I set out to be, a pretty good runner. I wonder if it's worth going on."

### MATURITY

**T**HIS, insists Gordon Pirie, is not disenchantment but "maturity." It is not that he is fed up with running but wise and old enough to see what the sacrifice has meant in worldly terms.

But he will not say he is retiring and you wonder as you watch this slender figure race round the track for the 20th time just what this new-found maturity means.

Will it triumph over fanatical dedication? Will it lead him to

I'll prove it wasn't my fault

—PIRIE

By TERRY O'CONNOR

**G**ORDON PIRIE flies into Dublin today with two targets — a new career and restoration of his reputation as a world-class athlete.

Pirie is vague about the new job he is taking up in Dublin, but talks with old determination about running in the international meeting at Sautre Stadium today and tomorrow.

This will be his first appearance since he failed in Rome. Since then Pirie has been training under German coach Waldemar Gerschler.

He competes at Glasgow on Saturday and in the floodlit meeting sponsored by the London Evening News at the White City next Wednesday.

"I seriously believe I can prove my Rome form was due to lack of acclimatisation," Pirie told me yesterday.





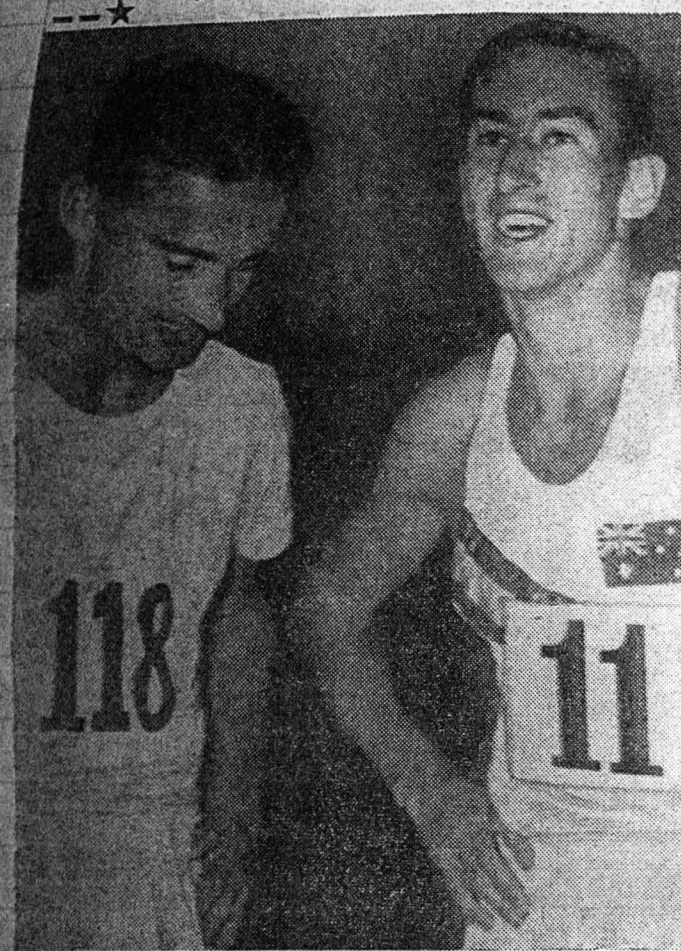
**HALFWAY MARK . . .** Tony Blue (Australia) leads the field at the end of 880 yards in last night's great mile at Santry. Behind him are Albert Thomas (Australia), Herb Elliott (Australia), who went on to win in 3m. 57.0s.; Terry Sullivan (Rhodesia) and Gordon Pirie (Britain). Hidden behind Elliott is Laszlo Tabori, the Hungarian exile. Sullivan and Pirie also broke four minutes in this mile, and the sixth man was timed under 4m. 03.0s.



Picture at an early stage of the first lap of the mile at Santry last night are (left to right): Albert Thomas (Australia), Herb Elliott (Aus.), Laszlo Tabori (Stateless), Terry Sullivan (Rhodesia), partly hidden; Tony Blue (Aus.), Peter Snell (New Zealand), J. Anderson (Britain), Gordon Pirie (Brit.), Jim McLoughlin (Ireland) and

MILE INTERNATIONAL RACE Dublin, 1968.

## Sick Elliott triumphs again —Pirie joins 4 min. club



**PHEW!** Pirie (left) and Elliott draw breath after last night's race in Dublin.

From SYDNEY HULLS: Dublin, Friday

**H**ERB ELLIOTT, the Olympic champion, who was told by his doctor he was over-racing, ran a floodlit mile in 3min. 57sec. on this chilly evening and drew Britain's Gordon Pirie into his first four-minute mile.

Elliott's mile, his 16th under four minutes and the fastest in the world for two years, came as a shattering surprise to the 15,000 crowd.

For the previous evening, ailing Elliott had confessed after finishing fourth in an 880-yard race that he had spots before the eyes and was suffering from a stomach upset. Yet he still decided to run tonight although his doctor suggested he needed a rest from the track.

### BIGGER SHOCK

An even greater surprise was to see Pirie, Britain's gold medal hope who failed so miserably over 5,000 and 10,000 metres in Rome, coming home in 3min 59.9sec—the first four-minute mile of his 20-year career—then irrepressibly stating: "I can run the mile faster still."

A third shock was the failure of Hungarian exile Laszlo Tabori to provide any menace to Elliott. The Aussie plan was for pace-makers Albert Thomas, world two- and three-mile record holder, and Tony Blue to take the field round to the bell in three even laps of 59sec. apiece.

But in his eagerness Thomas erred on the fast side, running the first quarter in 57 seconds, reaching the half in 1 min 57 secs., with Elliott striding smoothly in second place, followed by

Tabori. Pirie, the Rhodesian Terry Sullivan and Peter Snell of New Zealand, the Olympic 800 metres champion, were next in that order, an order which only changed when Blue moved past the bunch to take the lead, and Thomas fell behind.

They reached the bell in 2min 59secs, and for a brief spell we saw the yellow-vested Tabori in the lead. But he could only hold on for the short space of time needed to round the bend.

As they entered the back straight, Elliott surged away with Pirie coming along strongly and Tabori lagging behind in third place.

Pirie held on gamely, but by the time they hit the final straight Elliott had increased his lead to 15 yards and was going away to win easily.

Still Pirie battled on, only to be beaten on the line for second place by Sullivan, whose 3min. 59.8sec. makes him the first runner from Africa to beat four minutes.

### HE'S HAPPY

Did Elliott, who had travelled nearly 4,000 miles since Rome and run six races in the last 10 days, hope for a faster time? "It's no use hoping after the race is over," he said.

But his chum Blue told me: "Herb must be very happy tonight."

And indeed he should be, for after running two 3min. 58.6sec. miles in London on Wednesday of last week and Malmö just three days ago, this was his third sub-four-minute mile in 10 days.

Pirie, beaten by Albert Thomas over 3,000 metres last night, jumped with joy when told he had beaten four minutes and shouted: "I did it! I did it!"

"My legs gave out with 50 yards to go, but I knew I had to keep going because I could feel I had a four-minute mile in me." Snell, in coming fifth to Elliott,

## ELLIOTT HELPS PIRIE SMASH 4 MINUTES

By ROY MOOR

**C**OURAGEOUS Gordon Pirie achieved his first sub-four-minute mile in Dublin last night when he finished third behind world-record holder Herb Elliott, of Australia.

Elliott easily beat off Pirie's last-lap challenge to win in 3min. 57sec., and Terry Sullivan, of Rhodesia, edged Pirie out of second place near the line.

The first six placings:

	Min.	Sec.
1 Herb ELLIOTT (Australia)	3	57
2 Terry SULLIVAN (Rhodesia)	3	59.8
3 Gordon PIRIE (GB)	3	59.9
4 Laszlo TABORI (Hungary)	4	0.7
5 Peter SNELL (N. Zealand)	4	1.5
6 Albert THOMAS (Australia)	4	2.6

Elliott had the race well mapped out. Fellow Australian Albert Thomas set a hot pace, covering the first lap in 57sec., with Elliott at his heels.

After two laps Tony Blue, another compatriot, took over the lead and the time after three laps was 2min. 59sec. Then Laszlo Tabori, the former Hungarian star, shot into the lead, but cool calculating Elliott allowed no breakaway.

strong for Pirie, Sullivan and Tabori.

His punishing pace never let up, and his time was only 2.5sec. slower than his world record made on the same Santry Stadium track two seasons ago.

ELLIOTT commented: "I didn't expect to break my world record because of stomach trouble that has been bothering me for two days. The doctor told me to take things carefully."

Pirie was jubilant when he heard he had broken the four-minute barrier. He embraced Sullivan, saying: "I did it!" Then he shook hands with Elliott, saying: "Thanks, Herb."

### Pirie "Would Love To Live Here"

**O**N arrival in Dublin yesterday

for the big Santry athletic meeting, Gordon Pirie, the famous British runner, told reporters he had been offered a job in Dublin, but it was not yet certain he would be coming to live here. He said: "First I have to go back to New Zealand where I have everything I own. If I come to Dublin it will be in about eight months time."

He added: "I would love to live in Dublin and my wife would love it too. It's a free country."

When asked his opinion of the Santry track he said: "I think it is the men who have performed here that has made it so good. But undoubtedly it is the best track in these islands."



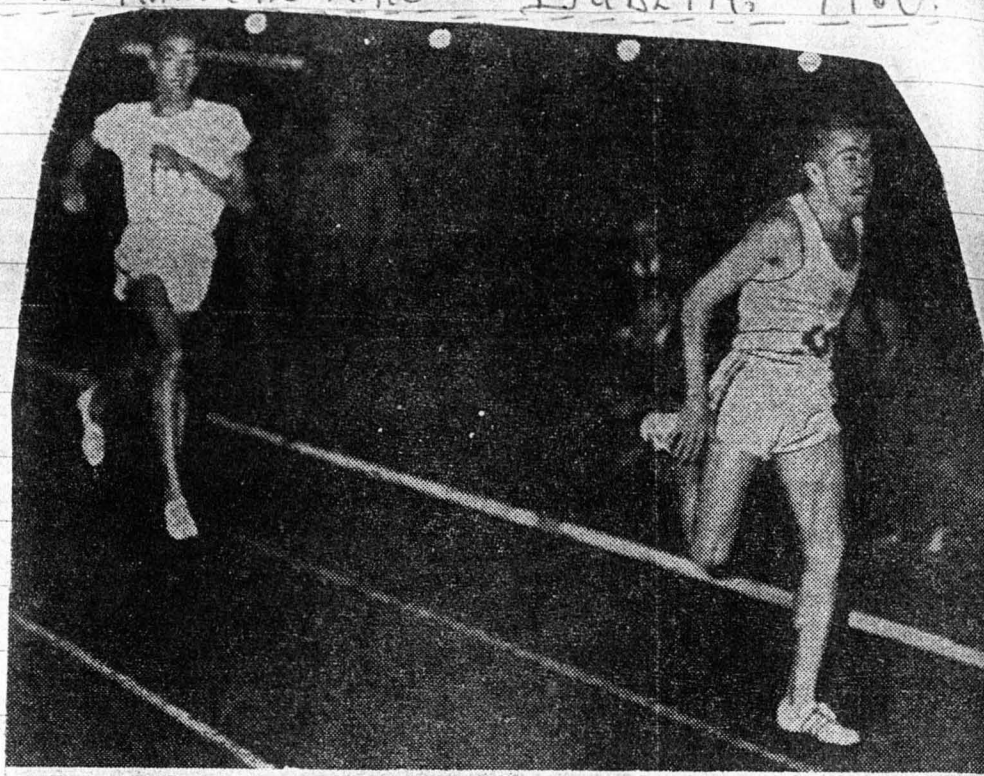
# 3,000 METRE INTERNATIONAL RACE DUBLIN, 1960.

## Little Australian Held On Grimly

The 3,000 metres provided a thrilling struggle between Australia's Albert Thomas and Britain's Gordon Pirie.

Thomas the world two and three miles' record holder, and Pirie, the holder of the 3,000-metre world record, virtually had the race to themselves from an early stage and ran a pulsating last lap.

Pirie seemed to be running quite easily behind Thomas and I felt that he was poised ready to pounce on Thomas in the straight but the little Australian held on grimly to his lead and finished three yards in front of the British runner. Thomas's time of 8m. 6.8s., however, was well outside the world record.



Thomas (Australia) winning the 3,000 metres from Gordon Pirie (Britain) at Santry Stadium.

Gordon Pirie made a tremendous effort in the 3,000 metres but he could not overtake Albert Thomas of Australia who beat him by two yards to win in 8min. 6.8sec., which is 14 seconds outside Pirie's world record.

## Pirie beaten

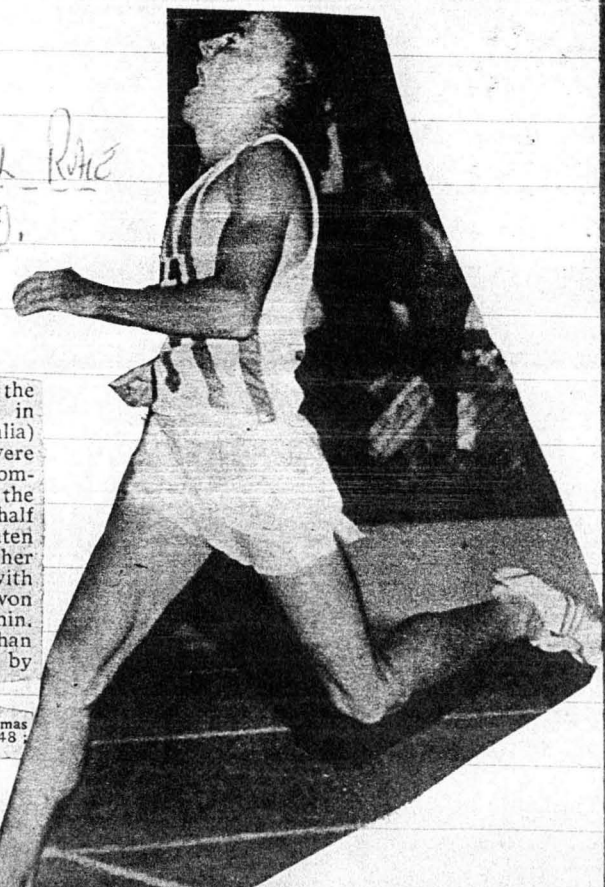
Most of the race Pirie and Thomas were running shoulder to shoulder. On the last bend Thomas sprinted away, and Pirie, who had until then seemed to be running well within himself, just could not hold him.

Johnny Thomas, the coloured American high jumper, tried unsuccessfully to beat his own

3,000 METRES: 1. A. Thomas (Aus.), 8-6.8; 2. D. Pirie (G.B.), 8-7.2; 3. Nyandika Maiyord (Kenya), 8-9.

# 3 MILE INTERNATIONAL RACE GLASGOW 1960.

Probably the best race of the evening was the three miles in which A. G. Thomas (Australia) and D. A. G. Pirie (A.A.A.) were running. Thomas soon took command and had he maintained the rate of progress of the first half of the race he would have beaten the all-comers' record. Neither Pirie or F. Salvat could stay with him over the last mile and he won in the excellent time of 13min. 36.2sec., only 2.8sec. slower than the all-comers' record held by G. D. Ibbotson.



ATHLETICS  
GLASGOW.—Three Miles: 1. A. Thomas (Aus.), 13min. 36.2sec.; 2. G. Pirie, 13-48; 3. M. Nyandika (Kenya), 13-49.6.

## Gordon Pirie Switches To The Mile

By BOB TREVOR

GORDON PIRIE, Britain's latest member of the four minute club, has made a dramatic switch to the mile for the Evening News International meeting at White City on Wednesday.

Pirie asked for the move when Laszlo Tabori was forced to withdraw with a torn leg muscle. On Friday, in Dublin, the 29-year-old Coulsdon star returned 3min. 59.9sec. finishing behind Herb Elliott and Terry Sullivan. Both are in Wednesday's field.

"I realised a life-long ambition in Dublin," said Pirie. "Now I have proved myself by breaking the dam. I feel in a position to have a go at Herb's record. It should be quite a race."

So the man, who re-established himself as Britain's premier athlete faces the greatest mile the world has known.



A late breakfast for Gordon Pirie who challenges Herb Elliott in the mile.

But beating Herb, the world's greatest athlete, has enough difficulty to open a shop—so he swapped his first prize knives and forks for the tray and coffee set presented to the man he beat, France's Marcel Bernard.

CHOOSING second prize is just about as close as Elliott ever looks to suffering defeat over a mile or 1,500 metres.

The great Australian is immensely popular with British crowds, but their main interest in his races now is whether or not his proud colours will at last be lowered.

They don't want him to lose—but they want to be there if and when it happens!

Spectators unacquainted with the Elliott tactics might have had moments of doubt about the result last night. The great Herb did not appear to be running with his usual smoothness and confidence in the first half-mile.

## Stepped Up

When Terry Sullivan (Brockton) led at the half mile in 2m. 24s., Elliott was fourth behind Britain's Gordon Pirie and Bernard.

First real excitement of the race came at the bell when Sullivan stepped up the pace pursued by Bernard, and Elliott at last made a move, driving past Pirie and then closing on Bernard as the Frenchman swept into the lead.

Three hundred yards out we saw the characteristic unanswerable Elliott burst. Anyone who missed his 1,500 metres victory in Rome was shown exactly how it was done.

# EVENING NEWS FLOODLIGHT MILE RACE. WHITE CITY 1960.

GORDON PIRIE took his own porridge in with him, ate two boiled eggs and cracked: "I wish I had a motor bike for to-night."

Gordon, running his first mile at the White City for seven years, has the job of catching the fabulous HERB ELLIOTT, who may lower his world record of 3min 54.5sec.



Elliott again . . . 17th sub-four-minute mile.



LONDRES. — Pour n'avoir pas cru suffisamment à sa chance, Michel Bernard a raté, au cours de la



## busman's holiday

GORDON PIRIE is off to Spain today, writes SYDNEY HULLS. Pirie told me last night: "My wife Shirley and I have not had time at all for a holiday this year. We have the chance for a week's holiday now and we are going to take it."

Will Pirie race while he is away? "Well," he said, "if I receive an invitation and it is passed by the British Board I might."

Pirie is going down to San Sebastian, near the Spanish border, where there is a keen athletic following.

I feel sure they would not let Pirie stay in the city and miss the opportunity of inveigling him into a race of some description.

The thin man cannot be away too long. He has to be back in time to race the 5,000 metres for Britain against East Germany in Berlin, on October 15-16.

What with one thing and another, it seems as if this may be a busman's holiday.

### Pirie wins on holiday

Gordon Pirie took time off from a holiday to win an international 5,000-metres race at San Sebastian, yesterday, in 14min. 4sec. He took the lead after two laps and finished 1sec ahead of Argentinian Oswaldo Suarez.

5,000 METRES INTERNATIONAL RACE  
SAN SEBASTIAN  
SPAIN 1960.



Oswaldo Suarez (à l'arrivée de la course).

SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS  
5 miles CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP 1960.

### Cross-Country

#### EASY FOR PIRIE

Gordon Pirie ran in South London Harriers' 5 miles cross-country championship at Coulsdon on Saturday and won easily in the fast time of 25min 13sec. He was followed home by F. Gilson in 26min 29sec, with Mike Firth third in 26min 33sec.



## Weak AAA team face defeat

ENGLAND'S athletic team flew to Berlin last night ... three months late. This belated international against East Germany tomorrow was due to take place before the Olympic Games, writes Terry O'Connor.

But plans were frustrated by unimportant fixtures arranged by the British Board.

Now the A.A.A. find themselves with a weakened team which faces defeat at the end of a long season. At full strength England could have repeated last year's victory over East Germany.

Peter Radford should still manage to win both sprints, but he has lost his edge after six months intense competition. This was obvious by his performance in Nigeria.

Gordon Pirie is disappointed that he will not meet the double Olympic silver medallist Hans Grodtski in the 5,000 metres as the blond German is concentrating on the 10,000 metres.

Even so, Pirie faces another formidable runner in Friedrich Janke, who was fourth at Rome and the leading 5,000-metre runner last year.

Pirie has been revitalised by beating four minutes for the mile, and he is determined to end his fluctuating season on a high note.

Gordon Pirie has a cold and may not run in the 5,000 metres for England against East Germany in Berlin today.



EAST GERMAN v ENGLAND. BERLIN, 1960.

**E**VEN a European and British shot-putt record by Arthur Rowe could not wipe out the memory of another international crushing for England's middle and distance runners here today.

It was almost as depressing as the rain which fell continuously on the grey, half-empty Walter Ulbricht Stadium in East Berlin. But the East German men found sufficient inspiration to beat England 116-95, and their women by 68-50.



GORDON PIRIE  
Finished No. 4

Rowe produced a brilliant series of putts, with five over 60ft. His fourth effort, 62ft. 8 1/2 in., was almost a foot better than the Italian Silvano Mecconi's European record.

Rowe's performance would have won him a silver medal in Rome. In Rome the 24-year-old Barnsley blacksmith had failed even to reach 55ft. to qualify for the final round.

Rowe has a new sense of determination. He tells me: "I am going to train this winter as I have never done before in an effort to break the world record."

"I am convinced I can find at least another six feet. The shot slipped from my hand when I made today's record."

Another bright spot on a dull day came from another Olympic disappointment—Mary Bignal. She beat Olympic bronze medalist Hiltrud Claus in the long jump with 20ft. 8 1/2 in., then just lost a tingling 80 metres hurdle tussle with another medallist, Gisela Birkemeyer.

Gordon Pirie did not restore his prestige which plummeted at Rome.

### Pirie's theory

He led the four-man 5,000 metres field for the first two laps. Even when Fritz Janke and Stan Eldon shared the lead it seemed only a formality—Pirie exuded confidence.

With a mile to go policeman Eldon realised he must try to break if he had a chance to win. The Germans went with him, but not Pirie.

Gallant Eldon's gamble failed because he could not match the finish of his rivals.

Pirie's latest theory on failure is: "I have not trained enough. During the past fortnight I have worked out only four times. This proves that those who say I do my best races in training are wrong."

Pirie then contradicts himself, as he often does, by saying: "I am mentally rather than physically fed up with running. If I was sensible I would pack up."

This would be a wise course. It is sad to see the once-great Pirie trailing last, in 14min. 43.6sec.—the same as his Rome time, more than a minute below his best.

But, as he said himself, "if I decide to retire tonight within a few days I am certain to change my mind."

### Kuts time goes

Moscow, Sunday.—Pyotr Bolotnikov, the Russian Olympic champion, set a new world record of 23min. 18.8sec. in the 10,000 metres at the Soviet championships in Kiev today. This time is 11.6sec. faster than the previous record, set by Vladimir Kuts in Moscow in 1956.—B.U.P.

5,000 METRES

1st	F. JANKE	E.G.	14min 17.2sec
2nd	L. STAMER	E.G.	14min 19.4sec
3rd	S. ELTON		14min 20.0sec
4th	G. PIRIE		14min 43.6sec

NOVEMBER 6, 1960

— Elliott Makes Up the Number —

## Pirie at his Best

From NORRIS McWHIRTER

**W**ORLD one-mile record holder, Herbert Elliott, 22, finished a foaming eighth behind the winner Gordon Pirie, 29, in yesterday's five-mile cross-country race over the Farthing Down, Coulsdon.

Elliott was running for Cambridge University against South London Harriers and Walton A.C. It was a case of a confessedly unfit Olympic champion helping out his team after an all too brief lay off, following perhaps the most brilliant track season of any athlete in history.

For the giant Pirie, three times English cross-country champion over 10 miles, the race was a jaunt across the muddy, hilly terrain over which, during his 50,000 miles of running, he has almost worn a groove. None-the-less, he was in spanking form and his starter's mile win over the Olympian, Laurie Reed, in 25 mins. 12 sec. was an improvement of three seconds over his own month-old course record.

### Early Favourites

Behind Reed (S.L.H.) came the Hampshire Tony Llewellyn (Walton), the first Cambridge man, R. Walsh, R. J. Roath (Walton), the Cambridge captain, Tim Briault, the miler, Ray Roseman (S.L.H.) and then Elliott (26 min. 41 sec.), 10 yards ahead of the cross-country international Mick Firth (S.L.H.).

South London, early favourites for next March's national title, won the match with 42 points against Cambridge, 65, and Walton 70.

Clearly, in the tradition of the miler Roger Bannister and Chris Chataway, Elliott will start favourite by the time it comes round for the Oxford v. Cambridge race over Wimbledon Common on December 4.



H. W. NEALE  
Herb Elliott (right) makes a point with considerable emphasis as he discusses the race with a victorious Gordon Pirie.

SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS  
v  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

5 MILE CROSS-COUNTRY  
AT  
COULSDON.



SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS  
v  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY

5 1/4 MILE CROSS-COUNTRY  
AT  
ADDINGTON.

### Cross-Country OXFORD WELL BEATEN

Oxford were at Addington for a match over 5 1/4 miles against South London and Herne Hill. South London paid the university the compliment of turning out a very powerful team which included the two Olympic runners D. A. G. Pirie and L. D. Reed.

Pirie was in fine form and outran the opposition to finish first in 27min 56sec, two Herne Hill men, G. Rhodes and A. Towl, occupying second and third places in 29min 16sec. Reed, L. Gilson and S. R. Langridge followed in close succession to give South London an easy team victory.

Although Oxford's first scoring man, R. Bell, could finish no higher than ninth, excellent packing enabled them to beat Herne Hill for second place.



# CHALLENGE LEFAUCHEUX International Cross Country Race, Paris 1961.



LEFAUCHEUX VIENT D'ETRE DONNE. IL Y A 208 CONCURRENTS.



## Reed and Pirie spur Harriers

**SOUTH** London Harriers, spearheaded by Laurie Reed and Gordon Pirie, won the team prize in the Pierre Lefauchaux international cross-country race in France yesterday.

Reed was fourth and Pirie fifth in the field of 121. The winner was Albert Rhadi, the Moroccan Army sergeant who won the silver medal in the Olympic marathon in Rome. His time for the five and a half-mile course was 26m. 6s.

Rhadi won from Marcel Vanderwattyn, of Belgium, who was bidding for his fourth successive victory in the race. He was 46s. behind.

## COMPANY FORMED BY GORDON PIRIE

### EXPORT AGENTS

**Daily Telegraph Reporter**

Gordon Pirie, 29, the athlete, has formed his own company, registered as Gordon Pirie Ltd., general merchants, with £100 capital. He and his wife, Shirley, a former international runner, are both directors.

Mr. Pirie, who plans to return to New Zealand towards the end of next summer, said the company was to act as export agents for a business he hoped to begin in Australia and New Zealand. "He was looking round for British products which people want to export to that part of the world."

Some products he had in mind at the moment were small navigation instruments, teak furniture and pottery.

## Pirie takes £389 trip

**GORDON PIRIE** flies off tomorrow on a £389 racing tour that will take him to Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, and New York.

Chief port of call is the New Year's Eve round-the-houses race at Sao Paulo.

This is the 4 miles 943 yards race through firework-flooded cobblestone streets that tests the stamina of 300 of the world's greatest runners every year.

The race itself has been going for a quarter of a century, but Britain has won it on only one occasion—when Ken Norris succeeded in 1956.

Britain's Amateur Athletic Board will also send one athlete and a team-manager official to the Sao Paulo race.

## Police help lone Pirie

**By ROY MOOR**

**GORDON PIRIE**, Britain's lone runner in tonight's midnight round-the-houses international race at Sao Paulo, Brazil, had a test run over the 4½-mile course last night—with police motor-cyclists as escorts.

After the run he told me: "It is a tough course, 2,400ft. above sea level and with the temperature around 90 degrees. It is going to be a very difficult race to win."

Pirie's London preparation for the event included Turkish baths and hours of exercise in a specially steamed bathroom at his home.

After all this effort, he is disappointed that Russia's Olympic 5,000-metre champion, Petre Bolotnikov, is not competing, as he was hoping to avenge his Olympic defeat.

Last year's winner, Osvaldo Suarez, of Argentina, Hans Grodotzki, the German Olympic silver medalist, and Manuel Paris, twice a winner for Portugal, are all strongly fancied.

## COPS PACE PIRIE

**By SYDNEY HULLS**

**GORDON PIRIE**, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for the famous New Year's Eve round-the-houses race, was escorted by six speed-cops round the cobblestoned course at 10 o'clock on Thursday night.

Why so late at night? Pirie explained by long-distance telephone: "You can't go out any earlier in the evening because the traffic is so fierce. And it's too darned hot to go out in sunlight!"

How hot? "At least 90 degrees, and the humidity is pretty high too," said Pirie.

So, under the cooler, more friendly cloak of darkness, Pirie, wisecracked.

Britain's sole representative in this 300-entry race, went round the 4½-mile course twice—to the roar of high-powered motor-bikes.

Why cover the course twice? "So as I know it twice as well," says canny Pirie.

Chief opposition should come from the East German, Hans Grodotzki, Olympic silver medalist in both 5,000 and 10,000 metres at Rome; and a previous course winner, Argentinian Oscar Suarez.

Pirie, who had a smooth 36-hour flight out, runs again at a track meeting on Tuesday and returns home with team manager Pat Sage on Thursday.

Is business man Pirie doing any sales work while he's out there? "Yes, I'm selling Britain!" he



Round the Houses Race, Brazil, 1960-61.



**SAO PAULO** W tradycyjnym biegu sylwestrowym (7.300 m.) zwyciężył Argentyńczyk Oswaldo Suarez, który w kilka dni później

## PIRIE 38th IN SAO PAULO RACE

**GORDON PIRIE** finished 38th in the annual Round the Houses race through Sao Paulo's streets yesterday.

Oswaldo Suarez, Argentina's Olympic marathon runner, won this Brazil race for the third consecutive year. He was followed by Hans Grodzki, Germany's 5,000 and 10,000 metres Olympic silver medallist.

Afterwards Pirie said: "I started badly with a couple of others and was called back. We turned back to start again when the gun went off and I was 100 yards behind before I knew what had happened."

Derek Ibbotson won the one-mile road race at Mountain Ash, in Wales in a new record time of 4min 16.8sec. carried a lighted torch for four miles as part of the traditional ceremony and then took part in the four-mile mid-night Round-the-Houses race. But he couldn't pull off the double.

Winner was Martin Hyman (Portsmouth) in 18min. 35sec, which beat Stan Eldon's course record by 13 seconds. Eldon was second in 18min 37sec.

THE old year of 1960 ended on rather a sad note for British athletics with the once great **Gordon Pirie** finishing 38th, and last of the foreign entrants in the famous "Round the Houses" race of Sao Paulo, Brazil, on New Year's Eve. On December 18 Pirie had finished fifth in a cross-country race on the Continent. Now the big question seems to be: Is Pirie's wonderful career over at last?

Winner of the Sao Paulo test was **Oswaldo Suarez** of the Argentine, the victor in 1958 and 1959. He covered the alleged 7,300 metres in 22min. 2.1sec. and said afterwards: "I am very happy after having won the third time in a row. I offer my victory to my wife and mother."

Pirie began well and then fell back even though he had made special training preparations to be ready for the heat and huge crowd which is usually associated with this classic run. The detailed result was:

1. Suarez, 22:2.1; 2. Hans Grodzki (Germany), 22:21.9; 3. Eugene Allonsius (Belgium), 22:27.9; 4. Joao Santos (Brazil), 22:37.1; 5. Douglas Kyle (Canada), 22:41.6; 6. Jose Mollins (Spain), 22:42.7; 7. Antonio Azevedo (Brazil); 8. Alberto Rios (Argentine), 22:51.2; 9. Manuel Oliveira (Portugal), 22:52.6; 10. John Gutnecht (U.S.), 22:56.1.

Other overseas athletes finished as follows: **Tom O'Riordan** (Ireland), 17th; **Lage Tedenby** (Sweden), 21st; **Georgios Papavasiliou** (Greece), 33rd; **Gunnar Tjorneho** (Sweden), 34th; **Pirie** (G.B.), 38th.

Britain's only success in 35 previous Sao Silvestre races came in 1957 when the then ever busy **Ken Norris** won in 22:18.2. The record, or best performance, for the course is 20:30.4 by **Emil Zatopek** in 1953. In the past 12 races **Franjo Mihalic** of Yugoslavia and **Manuel Faria** of Portugal have both won twice and now Suarez gained his third trophy even though Hans Grodzki, double Olympic silver medallist at Rome in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres was favourite.

Suarez's best times for these distances are only 14:5.0 and 29:26.0 compared with Grodzki's 13:44.6 and 28:37.0 but the Argentinian knows this difficult race so well. New Zealand's **Murray Halberg** was expected to win.

## Start beat me-Pirie

**SAO PAULO** (Brazil), Sunday. —Gordon Pirie, of Britain, finished 38th in the "round-the-houses" race through hilly Sao Paulo streets early today, then said: "I was beaten before the starting gun went off."

Explained Pirie: "I made a false start with a couple of other runners, and was called back."

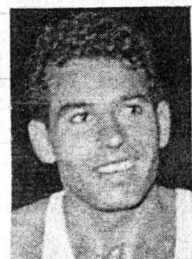
"We turned back to start again when the gun went off. I was 100 yards behind before I knew what had happened."

"I was lucky I wasn't trampled by the crowd of runners who came by me."

Oswaldo Suarez, the Argentine's Olympic marathon runner, won the four-and-a-half mile race for the third year in a row. His time: 22min. 2.1sec.

Hans Grodzki of Germany was second in 22min. 21.9sec., and Eugene Allonsius (Belgium) third in 22min. 27.9sec.

Ken Norris, who won on New Year's Day 1956, is the only Briton to triumph in the race, which is timed to start as the Old Year fades, and to end in the first minutes of the New Year.



**OSWALDO SUAREZ** of Argentina got married, joined 1,150 competitors from 39 nations in trek to São Paulo, Brazil, plodded through city's annual cross-town marathon to win his third consecutive title, collapsed into bride's arms, then took off on honeymoon.

Gordon Pirie finished 5th in a slow 5000 metres track race at Sao Paulo on January 3rd. Winner in 14:38 was de Oliveira (Portugal). At the same meet, Gunnar Tjorneho (Sweden) ran an 8:56.2 steeplechase and Hans Grodzki (E. Germany) won a 31:31.8 10,000m.

## PONDERS END TAKE SECOND PLACE IN TOUGH TEST

**PONDERS** End Athletic Club senior team took second place in an inter-club match organised by Epsom and Ewell Harriers at Epsom on Saturday. There were more than 30 runners on the 7½-mile course which was made particularly tough by the strong wind blowing across Epsom Downs.

On the first lap Gordon Pirie (South London Harriers) was well in the lead with Gerry McIntyre trying hard to maintain contact for the local club in second place. David Day was third and Brian Stephenson 4th. On the following lap Pirie increased his lead.

### DROPPED OUT

Stephenson had to drop out with a slightly pulled muscle when lying 5th and this affected the team result.

At the finish Pirie was a worthy winner, although McIntyre did well to hold him on the last lap to finish a good second. The leading pair were well out in front of the rest of the field. David Day had a good last lap to take 3rd place.

The results were: 1. D. A. G. Pirie (43m 22s); 2. G. McIntyre (44m 16s); 3. D. Day (45m 16s).

The team placings were: 1. Epsom and Ewell Harriers; 2. Ponders End; 3. South London Harriers.

### CROSS-COUNTRY

## Pirie Well Ahead

**GORDON PIRIE** yesterday had his first race since his Achilles tendon injury four weeks ago, and he won the 7½ miles inter-club event over Epsom Downs in 43 min. 32 sec.

He finished more than 200 yards ahead of international G. McIntyre (Ponders End), who was runner-up in 44 min. 16 sec. C. Day (Ponders End) was third in 45 min. 58 sec.

Epsom and Ewell H. were the winning team, with Ponders End second and South London Harriers third.

Inter Club Cross-country Races, 1961.



South London H. 10 pts. beat Westminster Bank A.C. 36½, Blackheath H. 44. 1. D. A. G. Pirie (SLH) 59.59; 2. B. J. G. Mottram (SLH) 62.48; 3. L. F. Clark (SLH) 63.34; 4. J. Lyne (SLH) 64.44; 5. R. A. Morley (B'heath) 65.45; 6eq. M. Tomlins (West) & C. J. Henty (SLH) 66.10.

### Cross-country

## HYMAN TIMES HIS FINISH BRILLIANTLY

## PIRIE STAYS ONLY HALF THE RACE

By JACK CRUMP

**MARTIN HYMAN**, of Portsmouth, revelled in the fine conditions at Ewell and was too fast for the rest of the star-studded field to win the Southern nine-mile cross-country title in the exceptionally fast time of 44min. 19sec.

Unexpected though his victory was, Hyman displayed all the qualities of a champion showing great judgment at all times of the race and timing his finish perfectly.

Gordon Pirie was the first to show in front of the field of 450 runners and after the first half mile led by 10 yards. He was soon joined by M. E. Wiggs, who shared the lead at the mile point, J. Hogan, the Eire-born Polytechnic Harrier, running without shoes, W. S. Heiberg of Woodford Green, Alan Perkins of Ilford, and Hyman on their heels.

Hogan went ahead at the completion of the first three-mile lap and the American M. Edelen, competing for Chelmsford, closed up to the leading bunch. Half-way through the race Hogan, Hyman, Pirie and Heiberg were still disputing the lead but shortly afterwards Pirie weakened. With two laps completed he had dropped back to ninth position.

### Second-place Tussle

Hogan hung on to first place for another couple of miles but then Hyman made his burst for home and, outpacing the opposition, won by 100 yards. Hogan and Perkins fought out a great battle for second place. Hogan



PIRIE LEADS SOUTHERN FIELD SOON AFTER THE START



# ENGLISH Cross-Country CHAMPIONSHIPS PARLIAMENT Hill, 1961

K.R. MATLEY  
7th 50m 15.8s



Heatley leads the field of 700 runners in the cross-country championships.

G.A. NORTH  
3rd 40m 09.5s

B.B. HEATLEY  
1st 40m 05.5s

H.B. TULLOH

2nd 40m 05.5s

S.E. EDUM 13th 51m 05.5s

Heatley charged around the three-mile laps on Saturday as joyfully as if he were already in a hot bath and not one of mud. When he gets the bit between his teeth, this fair-haired, well muscled athlete thumps over the ground with gusto. On Saturday he was in unbeatable mood and on the last circuit he seemed to be in that fine frenzy which can enwrap the great distance runners. Little Tulloh attacked bravely towards the end of the first lap, but when they came to one of the frequent stretches of mud Heatley proved much stronger and drove well away.

## ONLY SEVEN POINTS

At the end of the second lap Heatley was nearly 100 yards up on Tulloh and 47 seconds behind came North, followed by Fowler, Hyman, Matley, Turner, Seal and Heiberg. The only subsequent changes before the steep finish were that Turner just passed Matley and Heiberg overtook Seal.

More fascinating than anything else was the keen battle for team honours between the holders, Derby and County, and Portsmouth. In the end Derby got home by only seven points, which is the closest finish since the championship was resumed in 1945. Portsmouth had three men in the first 12, D. Cooke surpassing himself, and deserve thorough congratulations, but it was Derby's day and perhaps their future too, for they also won the youths and were second, only seven points behind Tipton, in the junior race.

For sheer sentiment we should note the fate of other former internationals: H. Minshall (19th), D. A. G. Pirie (20th), F. D. Sando (22nd), M. J. Bullivant (25th), and H. V. Foord (39th). Cross-country running is a democratic sport.

INDIVIDUAL.—B. B. Heatley (Coventry Godiva), 48min. 24sec.; 1. M. B. S. Tulloh (Portsmouth), 48min. 53sec.; 2. Gerald A. North (Blackpool and Fylde), 49min. 09sec.; 3. H. R. Fowler (North Staffs and Stone), 49min. 10sec.

D.A.G. Pirie

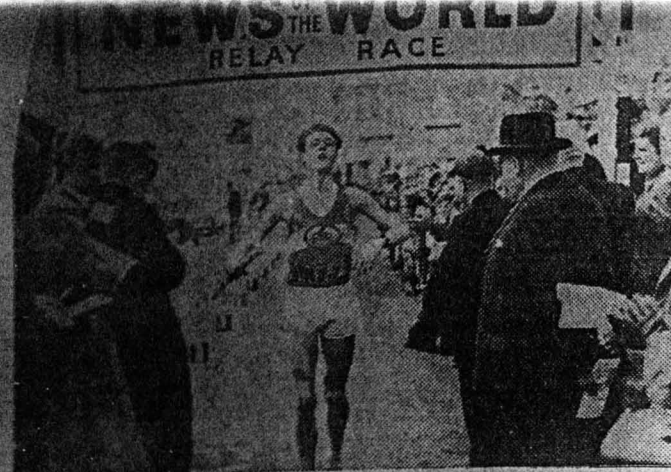
20th 51m 28.5s

G.A. THORNTON

11th 51.00

D.M. TURNER

1st 50m 13.5s



It's the end of a long road. John Mays crosses the finishing line to give Derby A.C. their third successive victory in the News of the World London to Brighton road relay.



The last change-over, with B. G. Lillicrap (Portsmouth) having taken Portsmouth A.C. up to the heels of the leader, B. Wragg (Derby & Cty. A.C.). J. T. Mays, M.15, brought Derby home first with 32 sec. to spare.

# London to Brighton ROAD RELAY 1961

Stage 12. Mays and Johnston fought out a great battle here but some way before the finish Mays went ahead in determined style and put up fastest time in bringing Derby home with 32 sec. to spare. A great finish to a great race. Godiva and S.L.H. (Pirie) retained their places and Belgrave (Davies) did well to move up two places to fifth. Bristol dropped to 7th but this was a grand performance after trying for years to get in this race. They, Godiva and Blackpool were the "teams of the day." Except on stage 2 Godiva were never out of the first three and they gave Derby and Portsmouth a great run for their money. The close race for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th places can be seen from the results. Fastest times: J. T. Mays (Derby) 17.24, D. A. G. Pirie (SLH) 17.38, J. Davies (Belgrave) 17.42.

1. Derby & Cty. A.C. 4h. 29m. 15s.
2. Portsmouth A.C. 4h. 29m. 47s.
3. Coventry Godiva 4h. 32m. 08s.
4. S. London H. 4:34.28; 5. Belgrave H. 4:35.02; 6. Blackpool & F. 4:35.06; 7. Bristol A.C. 4:35.11; 8. Thames Valley H. 4:35.35; 9. Blackheath H. 4:38.34; 10. Sheffield U.H. 4:38.42; 11. Poly H. 4:39.04; 12. Bolton U.H. 4:39.36; 13. Mitcham A.C. 4:40.16; 14. Walton A.C. 4:41.24; 15. Tipton H. 4:41.41; 16. Birchfield H. 4:43.42; 17.



# FOR PIRIE NOW

**DON'T** believe in ghosts, not even walking ones, leave alone those who run under a summer sun spotlighted by TV cameras.

So those who said that Gordon Pirie was killed in Olympic action when he failed to qualify for the 5,000 metres and finished a licked and limping tenth in the 10,000, can now spread their words on their breakfast toast.

**PIRIE IS NOT ONLY COMING BACK THIS SEASON. HE'S RETURNING WITH A SUPERSONIC 3 MIN. 59.9 SEC. BANG.**

He's put aside those gold medal dreams of being another Zatopek, another Kuts. Pirie has changed his mind, and changed his race.

Galloping Gordon will concentrate on the mile, the magic distance at which we were once famed and feared.

He will throw the three miles for good measure!

By doing this Pirie admits he **TREW AWAY** the six best athletic years of his life.

He admits he and his German coach Woldemar Gerschler **MADE A MIS-**

**By LAURIE PIGNON**

TAKE. In sheer effort and miles it must be the most expensive error the sporting world has known.

But—bless him!—if ever English sport needed personalities it's now, and you can take it from me that Pirie's miling is no gimmick!

He is far too dedicated a sportsman.

And let's remember than his 3-59.9 in September was the **FASTEST** any British athlete ran last year.

One trouble with Pirie is that when you quote him it's almost impossible not to make him sound what he isn't—a boaster.

I asked him what he thought his chances were. Here's his answer:

"I can only tell you that I am running better this year than I was at the same time last season."

He said it, not with pride, but as a fact.

This will be his last season here. Already he has formed himself into a limited company, with wife Shirley as his junior partner.

*Their business: To export and import ANYTHING.*

## Pirie in print

**IF** there were any lingering doubts that Gordon Pirie would once again postpone his retirement from athletics, they have been dispelled by the news that after the present season he is to publish a book called "Running Wild." The fact of earning money from writing automatically deprives him of his amateur status.

In his 11 international seasons Pirie has proved himself, with five world records, the greatest runner Britain has produced since the war—and also the most controversial.

At 100,000 words his book works out at roughly four words to every mile he has covered—a fair rate of exchange, one might think, for the odd telling aside he is probably preparing to deliver.



Haste to the wedding: Mary with friend Shirley Pirie



Signing register: with best man Gordon Pirie

## Love at first sight

Express Staff Reporter

**L**OVELY Mary Bignal, 21-year-old Olympic athlete, was secretly married yesterday at Holborn register office to 26-year-old Olympic sculler Sidney Rand. They met for the first time last month.

It was love at first sight for Mary and dark, handsome Sidney when Gordon Pirie introduced them last Good Friday.

And yesterday Gordon, a nervous best man, adjusted his white carnation and said to his wife Shirley: "You know, we are really responsible for all this."

It was a quiet wedding. Mary wanted it that way, for, as Sidney explained: "We have both had so many romances in the past we thought it would be better not to have any fuss."

## HURRYING

Mary, who flew back to London from an athletics meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel on Sunday, barely had time to get to her Knightsbridge hair salon yesterday before the wedding.

From Knightsbridge she went with Shirley Pirie to a friend's flat in Chelsea to change.

In 20 minutes Mary was ready—elegant in a chic cream silk dress and coat. Her silver blonde hair, which had been set in a bouffant style, had a large mauve rose pinned at the side.

Then, nervously clutching a white Bible, Mary asked diffidently: "Do I look all right?" Shirley Pirie, who was wearing a striking red two-piece, said dreamily: "You look marvellous."

## WHISTLING

Reassured, Mary, with her old tomboyish streak, whistled through her teeth and said: "Right. This is it. We're off."

As she was driven to the register office Mary, hanging on to Shirley's hand, whistled "I'm Getting Married in the Morning."

At 11.35 a.m. the bride arrived in the marriage room overlooking the tulips in Russell Square.

Later, at a nearby hotel, Mary's father, 60-year-old Mr. Eric Bignal, a Somerset baker, said: "We all hope that they will be happy, and that Mary will continue with her athletics."

Sidney's parents, building contractor Sidney Rand and his wife Helena, said proudly: "We are delighted with our daughter-in-law. She is lovely."

"Remember," said Mary to Sidney as they drove off on their honeymoon: "I've got to be back for Saturday. I'm hurdling at Chiswick."

## The Piries are off

**ATHLETICS**

By SYDNEY HULLS

**G**ORDON PIRIE is globe-trotting again. The lean, 30-year-old record-breaker and his wife Shirley leave London today.

Gordon says: "We are driving down to Spain for a few days' holiday and then going on to Germany to see my coach, Woldemar Gerschler."

There Pirie will limber up for the new season and perhaps race before returning to Britain for a short spell at the end of May.

Then the Piries will be off on their travels again to spend the summer in Scandinavia, probably at Stockholm.

But Pirie will be available to race for Britain when required.

Says Gordon: "As this is my final season I am anxious to accept





Stockholm 1961

**ATHLETICS**  
INTERNATIONAL MEETING (at Stockholm)—3,000 metres: G. Pirie (Britain) 8m 13.4s, 1; U. Lundstedt (Sweden) 8m 13.5s, 2; B. Persson (Sweden) 8m 15s, 3. 800 metres: P. Knuts (Sweden) 1m 50.5s, 1; J. Wenk (Britain), 1m 51.2s, 2.

### Pirie will join team in Warsaw

Gordon Pirie, now combining business with athletics in Sweden, will travel to Warsaw to join a British team there for the international meeting next week-end. He will return to England with the team.

## Kusockinski Memorial Race 'FLARE-UP' PUTS PIRIE OUT OF WARSAW RACE

WARSAW 1961

GORDON PIRIE sensationally pulled out of the 3,000 metres race at an international meeting in Warsaw last night after being confused about the start.

Pirie world record holder for the distance, mistook a flare, fired by the organisers, as a recall to the runners.

As he hesitated the rest of the field carried on. Pirie followed them for about 100 yards and then ran off the track.

There was a storm of whistling from the big crowd, directed apparently at the officials.

The winner was Kazimierz Zimny, of Poland, in 7m. 54.6s.—a Polish record.

## A pistol fools Pirie

GORDON PIRIE pulled out of an international 3,000 metres race in Warsaw yesterday after being confused by a pistol shot.

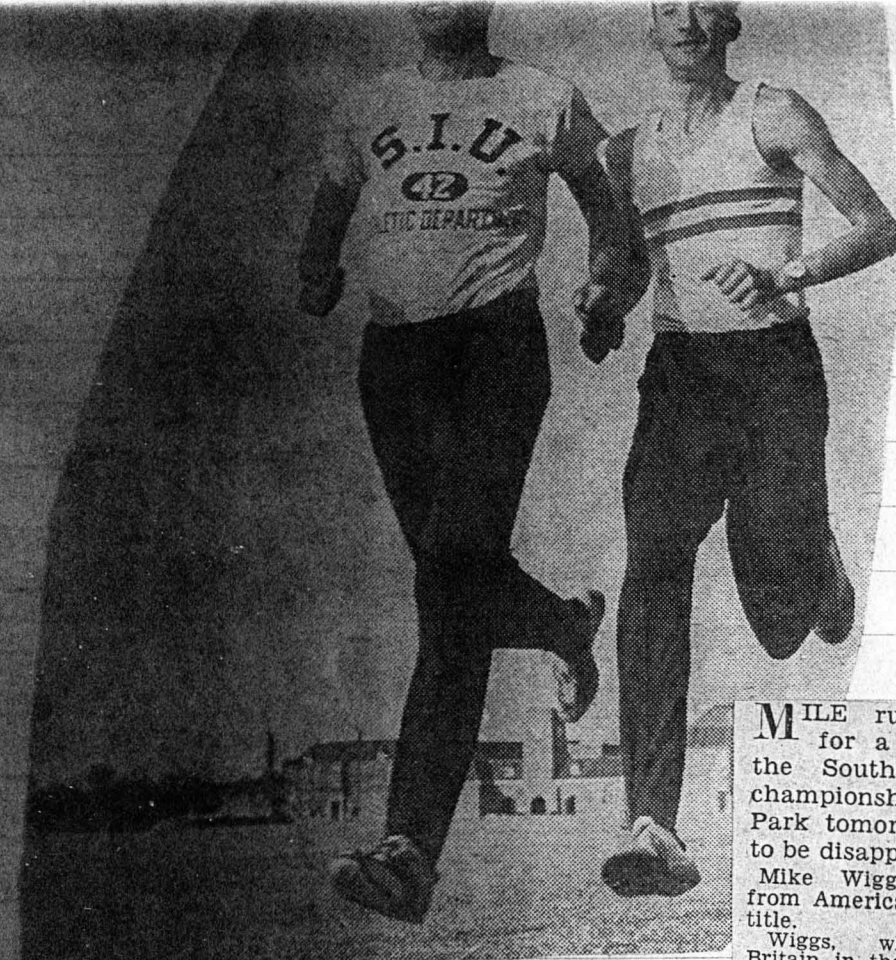
Pirie, world record holder for the distance, had mistaken a flare fired by the organisers as a recall to the runners.

The British athlete hesitated briefly, but the rest of the field carried on. Pirie then followed them for about 100 yards before running off the track.

There was a storm of whistling from the big crowd, directed apparently at the officials, and not Pirie, who was having his first major outing of the season.

The race? After a tremendous battle, five men covered the distance in under eight minutes.

KAZIMIERZ ZIMNY, of Poland, won in the Polish record time of 7m. 54.6sec.



MIKE WIGGS (left) and GORDON PIRIE are seen here in training together at Northampton (Herts). Wiggs is home from his American university and Pirie is lodging with him on a visit from Sweden.

## To Defend

By BOB TREVOR

GORDON PIRIE, who has had only one track race this season, returns from the Continent to defend his Southern three mile title at Motspur Park on Saturday.

He is also entered for the mile—and will be out to do qualifying times in both events for the AAA championships.

Pirie has 43 opponents in the three miles and the mile includes Olympic runners Frank Salvat, Bruce Tulloh—UK record-holder—Eric Shirley and Mike Wiggs, who walked into the London team which meets Rhineland Cities next Wednesday despite lack of competition in the U.S.

MILE runners hoping for a cosy pace in the South of England championship at Motspur Park tomorrow are going to be disappointed.

Mike Wiggs has arrived from America to bid for the title.

Wiggs, who represented Britain in the 1,500 metres at the Olympic Games last summer, later accepted a scholarship at the University of Southern Illinois.

"I am on vacation here until September," he told me yesterday. "I was quite pleased with the form I was showing in the States."

"My best times lately have

been 1min. 52sec. for the half-mile, 4min. 3sec. and 4min. 4.8sec. for the mile. I'd like to get inside four minutes before I return."

Quick to link up with his old stable companion was Gordon Pirie, who will also be in the Southern mile.

"I have already had a training session with Mike and have been impressed with his form," commented Pirie. "We are both hoping to produce fast times on Saturday."

By TERRY O'CONNOR

GORDON PIRIE is one of the many well-known athletes who might fail to qualify for the new-style A.A.A. championships at the White City on July 14 and 15.

With 13 Olympic medallists and numerous world record-holders among the 65 invited overseas competitors, tough qualifying standards have been set.

### Complaints

Pirie has run only one 3,000-metre race this season and withdrew from a similar event when he thought the runners had been recalled in Warsaw on Sunday.

He competes in either the mile or three miles at the Southern championships at Motspur Park on Saturday and must run 4min. 5sec. or 13min. 45sec. to ensure he can enter for the A.A.A. championships.

Pirie has been working in Sweden and has not yet run a track race here this season.



# ARE SET POSER

Qualifying standards set by the AAA for entry into their championships at the White City are going to set officials and athletes some tricky problems. Some entries will have to be tactfully accepted on reputation, others will have to be refused because of the limits on numbers.

Gordon Pirie poses a problem. He is entering the mile (at which distance he was Britain's fastest last season), the three miles (for which he has held the British record) and the six miles—an event which he has won four times and is the reigning champion.

The qualifying times set for these events at the championships are: Mile, 4min. 9 sec.; 3 miles, 13min. 46sec.; and 6 miles, 29min. 20sec.

Pirie got inside the mile qualifying time last night (4min. 8.5sec.) yet he has not qualified in the three or six miles.

The period in which athletes should have reached these standards started on January 1 and ended today.

Pirie has had only three races so far this season. He won a 3000 metres race in Stockholm in 8min. 13.4sec. which, although 10.6sec. slower than his world record, is the fastest run he has ever made at the start of a season.

## Prize for Pirie

Then he did 8min. 47sec. for two miles, although never in the lead until the last 100 yards, and on a poor village track he ran 5000 metres in 14min. 36sec.

It looks useful form, but it does not add up to qualifying for the AAA championships. Pirie's only comment on the situation is the philosophic: "If they want to exclude me, it's up to them."

There were no winners in the British party that went to Warsaw last weekend, but sprinters Marianne Dew and Michael Hildrey both produced their best times. Only the first in each event was awarded a prize, but one member of the British team came home with a prize, Pirie—and he got his without running.

Pirie dropped out at the start of the 5000 metres expecting a recall and gained his award as the unluckiest competitor at the meeting. The box of chocolates that went to Mary Bignal-Rand was for her good looks.

GORDON PIRIE, 30, the world 3,000-metre record-holder, bounded back into winning form at the Southern Athletics Championships at Motspur Park, Surrey, yesterday by taking the 3-mile title, in 85 degrees of heat, from the favourite, Martin Hyman. Pirie, who was on a fleeting visit to Britain from Stockholm where he now lives, had his spiked shoe ripped off in the first lap of the mile final. He stalked off the track, went to the referee, and entered for the 3 miles, due 30 minutes later.

Pirie let the ever-game policeman, Stan Eldon, do the donkey work in the first of the three miles, in the broiling heat. This was covered in 4 min. 33 sec. Hyman, the world's fastest six-miler of the year, took over the lead at the 2-mile mark in 9 min. 11.8 sec., with Pirie second.

Suddenly, after 10 of the 12 laps, Hyman faded and the Essex cross-country runner, Hill-Cottingham, took the lead at the bell. Pirie then accelerated fiercely down the back straight opening up an impossible gap in a few strides.

Though Pirie's time of 13 min. 43.6 sec. rates him only No. 8 on this season's British rankings, his run had all the authority of an old campaigner retaining his title.

To-day he returns to Stockholm

## PIRIE WINNER OF MILE HEAT IN 4min 8.5

### SOUTHERN RECORDS FOR TWO FINALS

By JAMES COOTE

GORDON PIRIE won his mile heat in the Southern Championships in 4min 8.5sec at Motspur Park last night and then said: "This is my last season at the top. I have entered for the mile, three and six miles in the AAA Championships and will then finish my career in Sweden."

The fastest mile qualifiers were M. E. Wiggs and P. Milner in 4min 6sec with K. A. Smith next in 4min 6.5. Wiggs, a student in

## 'Forgotten' says Pirie

GORDON PIRIE last night won his first race in Britain this season—a Southern Counties mile heat.

Then he told me: "I'm the forgotten man of athletics."

"No-one has invited me to compete in the London-Rhineland Cities meeting next Wednesday so I'm going back to Sweden."

"Anyway, this is my last season in athletics. Then my wife Shirley and I will be returning to New Zealand for good."

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS  
MOTSPUR PARK 1961

## Pirie Spiked, Then Wins Three-Mile Title



Southern Counties Amateur Athletic

GORDON PIRIE, who has been running for 20 of his 30 years, is Britain's only vintage athlete to retain his magic.

In the Southern Counties championships at Motspur Park on Saturday Pirie deserted the mile after losing a shoe and being spiked 100 yards out—yet 15 minutes later retained his three-mile title.

Compare Pirie with 25-year-old policeman Stan Eldon, who led for the first of those three

### Struggled

Three years ago Eldon reigned supreme in the track distance races. On Saturday he struggled to come eighth.

Eldon still trains with the same intensity but is paying the price of running too many hard distance races at an early age. Unfortunately, Eldon had no one to warn him that this was fatal. In fact he twice expressed a desire to run a three-mile race in an international, but was selected for the six-mile.

This is what happens when coaches are not given a voice on selection committees.

Pirie has always shown more independence and somehow has managed to devote himself almost entirely to running.

Now living in Sweden, Pirie came over for the Motspur meeting to ensure he qualified for the A.A.A. championships in three weeks' time.

His heat time qualifies him for the mile and a sub-60 seconds final lap for a total time of 13min. 43.6sec. wins a place in the three miles.



## NOT WANTED: Pirie catches his plane

GORDON PIRIE will not run in London's match against the Rhineland Cities at the White City on Wednesday. The promoters do not believe he is worth an outlay of £58 7s.

That is the cost of the return air fare from London to Stockholm where globetrotter Pirie and his wife Shirley are spending the summer.

A London Clubs official said last night: "We cannot afford the return London-Stockholm fare so that Pirie can run in the three miles."

"He is not the name he was and our budget does not permit us to spend this sort of money unless we consider the athlete will attract more than enough fans to pay for the expenses incurred."

### Not justified

"Until Pirie won the Southern three miles title at Motspur Park on Saturday in 13min. 43.6sec., he has produced no times to justify being asked to our meeting."

"And don't forget our three-mile field on Wednesday includes the Olympic 5,000 metres gold medalist MURRAY HALBERG of New Zealand, the bronze medalist KAZIMIERZ ZIMNY of Poland, and BRUCE TULLOCH, who intends to have a go for the world record."

Pirie smiled cynically when he knew there were no invitations for him to run in Britain. He



# NO CASH? GORDON SMILES

From SYDNEY HULLS

HELSINKI, Tuesday.—Gordon Pirie flew in today as a late surprise starter in the World Games, which begin here tomorrow.

Startled organisers blinked when the long, lean Pirie asked them coolly: "Can I run in the 5,000 metres on Wednesday and the 10,000 metres on Thursday?"

"Yes," they replied, "providing British officials agree."

Then they added warily: "But we can't afford to pay your travelling expenses. We have already used all of our £30,000 budget for the Games."

"O.K.," said Pirie casually. And then to me, as an aside: "Maybe they'll change their minds if I turn out to be the winner!"

## Test piece

The truth is, Pirie needs these races too badly to argue about how much he is out of pocket. He wants them as a test piece because he is thinking seriously of attacking both the three miles and the six miles Amateur Athletic Association championships at London's White City on Friday and Saturday of next week.

Tomorrow there will be the most formidable challenge from the 5,000 Rome gold medallist Murray Halberg, of New Zealand, Australia's ace long-distance man Dave Power, America's best six-miler Max Truex, and Basil Heatley, Britain's hero, fresh in from his 10,000 metres success in Moscow.

World Games. 1961.  
HELSINKI, FINLAND.

5,000 METRES.

1 <sup>st</sup>	M. HALBERG, NEW ZEALAND	5min 57 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
2 <sup>nd</sup>	D. PIRIE, BRITAIN	4min 22 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
3 <sup>rd</sup>	R. HOYKINPURI, FINLAND	4min 5sec
4 <sup>th</sup>	M. TRUEX, U.S.A.	4min 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
5 <sup>th</sup>	B. HEATLEY, BRITAIN	4min 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
6 <sup>th</sup>	J. VAILLANT, FRANCE	4min 12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
7 <sup>th</sup>	A. OMERTIA, ROMANIA	4min 18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
8 <sup>th</sup>	S. SALORANTA, FINLAND	4min 18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
9 <sup>th</sup>	C. CRETESCU, ROMANIA	4min 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
10 <sup>th</sup>	I. IVANOVIC, YUGOSLAVIA	4min 34 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
11 <sup>th</sup>	P. CLOHESSY, AUSTRALIA	4min 45 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
12 <sup>th</sup>	A. KORPI, FINLAND	4min 54 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec

## £20 to race Halberg



From TERRY O'CONNOR  
HELSINKI, Tuesday.

UNINVITED and unannounced Gordon Pirie took £20 out of his own pocket to fly here from Oslo for the chance to meet Murray Halberg, the Olympic champion, and other top men in the 5,000 metres tomorrow.

Only a week ago Pirie turned down a chance to run at the White City because the London club organisers would not provide him with a return fare to Stockholm.

Now he is desperate for competition before the A.A.A. championships in ten days' time.

## Refused

The Finnish organisers of the two-day "World Games" have spent £15,000 to bring athletes from all over the world, but have refused Pirie his fare.

But they agreed he may run, and have provided him with accommodation at the luxurious training centre just outside the city.

"Though this will cost me more than £20, I badly need the race," Pirie told me today.

Halberg must be favoured in view of his 4min. 5.6sec. mile victory at Gateshead last Saturday.

David Jones faces the most formidable sprint field since the Olympic Games, including Dennis Johnson, the West Indian, who has four times equalled the world's 100 yards record this season.

## RECORD FOR FISHER

Nat Fisher (Eton Manor A.C.), 24-year-old newspaper van driver and Middlesex three-mile champion, equalled Gordon Pirie's unofficial world and British best time when winning the one and a half miles in 6min. 26sec. at Paddington last night.

Fisher made his effort at the beginning of the last lap, which he completed in 62 seconds, to win by six yards from Stan Eldon, with Bruce Tulloh third.

Gordon Pirie did not win the 5,000 metres—but the fight he put up for second place had the crowd standing in the aisles.

There was no doubt from the start who was going to win—Olympic Gold medallist Murray Halberg.

And he obliged in the useful but not outstanding time of 13min. 57.4sec.

It was in the last half-mile that the Finn, Reijo Hoykinpuro came up to challenge Pirie.

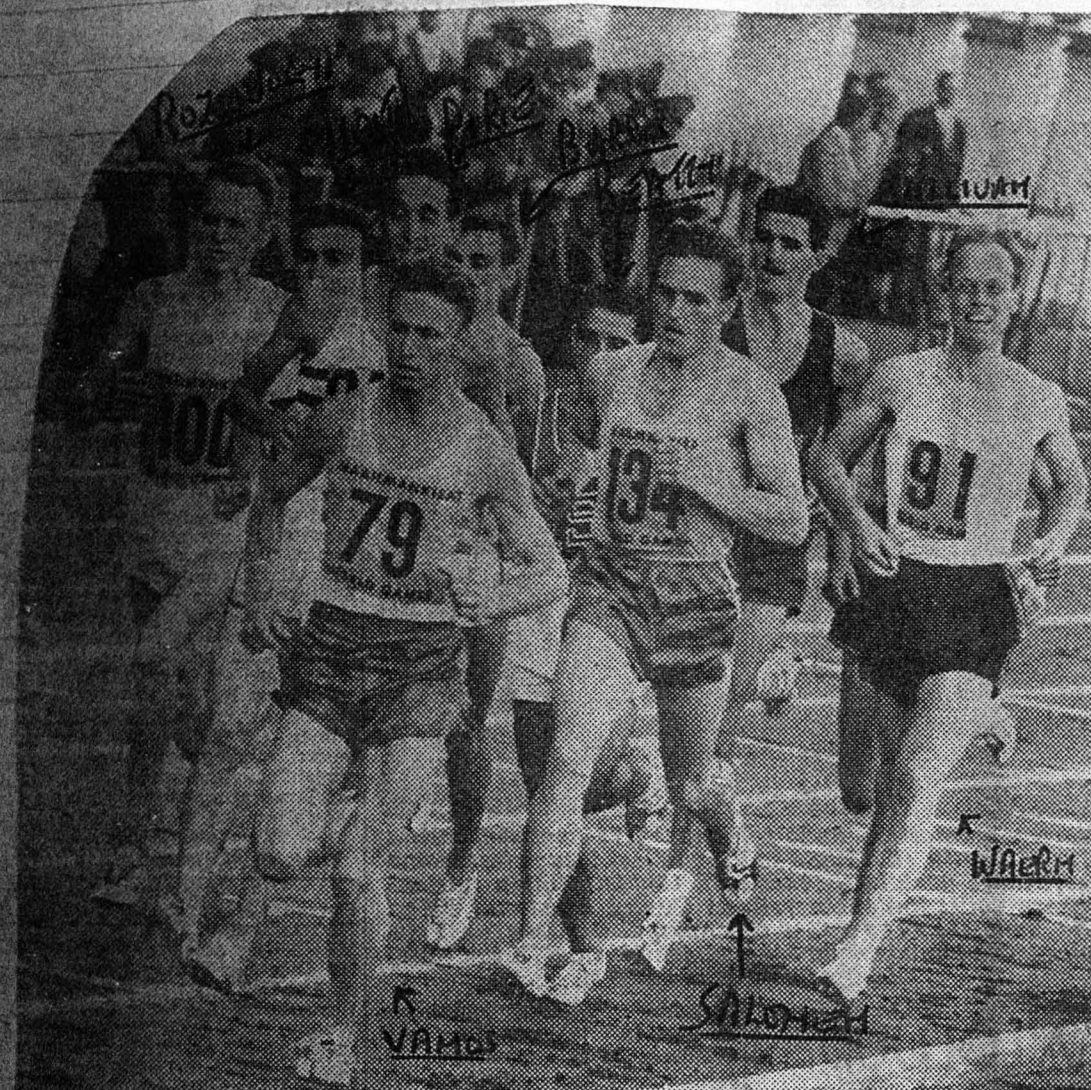
With 300 yards to go, Hoykinpuro put in the first of three bursts calculated to burn Pirie off, but the Briton stayed with him.

## Last bend

At the last bend Pirie's head came up, he turned on some of the old power and accelerated away to come second in 14min. 0.2sec.

Basil Heatley of Bedworth, near Coventry, the 10,000-metres hero of Moscow, was a worthy fifth in 14min. 8.8sec.

Halberg? He just stayed 50 yards ahead of the field from two miles onwards and even had time on the last lap to mistake the finishing post, stop and wave to



Jännittävä 1500 metrin ratkaisuvaiheet ovat käsillä. Vasemmalta Unkarin Istvan Rozsavolgi, Romanian Zoltan Vamos, joka johti alkumatkasta, hänen takanaan Englannin Gordon Pirie, Olavi Salonen. Suomalaisen vasemman olkapään takana näkyy lopullisen voittajan USA:n Jim Beattyn pää. Oikealla huonosti menestynneet Olavi Vuorisalo ja Dan Waern.

1,500 METRES.

1 <sup>st</sup>	J. BEATTY, USA	3min 42 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
2 <sup>nd</sup>	O. SALONEN, FINLAND	3min 46 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
3 <sup>rd</sup>	I. ROZSAVOLGI, HUNGARY	3min 46 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
4 <sup>th</sup>	D. WAERN, SWEDEN	3min 46 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
5 <sup>th</sup>	Z. VAMOS, ROMANIA	3min 46 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
6 <sup>th</sup>	T. SULLIVAN, RHODESIA	3min 46 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
7 <sup>th</sup>	T. BARRIS, SPAIN	3min 46 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
8 <sup>th</sup>	D. WAERN, SWEDEN	3min 48 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
9 <sup>th</sup>	D. PIRIE, BRITAIN	3min 51 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec
10 <sup>th</sup>	O. VUORISALO, FINLAND	3min 53 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> sec

Gordon Pirie made a late switch from the 10,000 metres to the star-studded 1,500 metres—and finished ninth in the 10-man field in the time of 3min. 51.9sec. But Pirie was not disheartened.

## PLAN CHANGE

The race plan was changed after consultation with British team manager Pat Sage, who told me: "I have advised Gordon to forget about six mile and 10,000 metres races and to concentrate on the three miles and 5,000 metres."

This is because Britain has far more talent in the six miles division than the three. So Pirie won't defend his six mile championship at the White City tomorrow week, and will make up his mind whether to attack the one mile or three miles.

Jim Beatty, America's four-minute miler, out-kicked some of Europe's finest middle distance runners to win the 1,500 metres with the excellent time of 3min. 42.4sec.

Olympic bronze medallist Istvan Rozsavolgi, of Hungary, tried to escape from the field 600 metres from the tape; but his strength failed him and he was easily overtaken by Beatty over the final bend.

There was a murmur of anticipation among the crowd when it was announced that Gordon Pirie would run.

Unfortunately, his entry proved a failure as he was tailed off to the rear after Rozsavolgi's sprint.

Britain's other representative Derek Hall, improved on his Moscow performance when he finished fourth in 3min. 44.7sec.



# CROWD WILL BE ROARING FOR GORDON

By GEORGE HARLEY

NEARLY fifty overseas stars, including five world record-holders are competing in the A.A.A. championships which start at the White City, London, today.

But the warmest welcome from the crowd will be for a British runner almost certainly making his farewell appearance on the track—Gordon Pirie.

Globe-trotting Gordon—he now lives in Sweden—has been the idol of the White City crowd for nearly ten years.

Only a fortnight ago there were cries of "We want Pirie" when he was conspicuously absent from the three miles race won

by New Zealander Barry Magee

Pirie who retires this year will be fighting this week-end for a place in Britain's team to meet the United States at the White City next week.

But current performances suggest that he has little hope of success in either the mile or the three miles, the two events he has entered.

It is ironic that he decided not to defend his six miles title as the British selectors have asked our two top men at the distance, Martin Hyman and Basil Heatley, to miss this

## GORDON PIRIE

THE old White City warhorse who will not allow the sports world to put him out to grass, rescued the dismal A.A.A. championships from being a wet and outsize flop, writes SAM LEITCH.

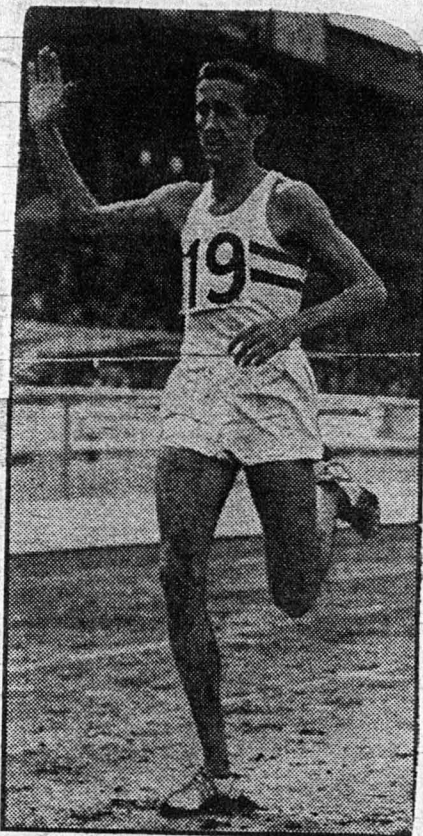
Leather-faced Gordon Pirie waited till the three miles—the last race of what he says will be his last national championship—and then he woke

up 15,000 bored White City fans.

Our national titles were leaving Britain faster than Gagarin. . . .

Then twelve laps of the old, cocksure, thin-lipped, ever-so-fit-looking Pirie, reduced the rest of the field to mud-splashed also-rans.

He won in 13m. 31.2s., but when a bloke like Gordon is around, who cares about statistics? This is a man who just won't lie down.



Is that Gordon Pirie wave a goodbye gesture or a victory salute?

# With a huff and a puff he blows them all down

By STAN TOMLIN

YOU can love him. You can find him exasperating. But you can never write off Douglas Alistair Gordon Pirie. He proved that for ever more at the White City yesterday when he bowed himself out of the A.A.A. championships with a memorable victory in the three miles.

The crowd, of course, always love him—it's the critics that have so often become irritated by him—and as he galloped home 55 yards ahead of his nearest rival they rose to acclaim him.

No other British athlete has aroused such emotions as Pirie. He has always been the lone wolf of the track but his aspirations, mysterious to the experts, have been instinctively understood by the fans on the terraces.

To them he has been the lovable rebel—the Robin Hood of the cinders. And yesterday, once again, their hero robbed the "rich" of their spoils of victory.

He strode to win with a flourish, waving his arm to HIS public. He, too, seemed especially elated at this victory.

## Waved to his public

He turned and waited for those he had conquered. And then he shook the hand of each in turn. It was his farewell to the A.A.A. show. He returns to New Zealand at the end of the season.

He regretted not having set a record. "I would have been inside the record time had the track not been so heavy," he said.

He finished in 13 min. 31.2 sec.—a great performance in the appalling conditions.

Blackpool's Brian Craig had set a hot pace, covering the first mile in 4 min. 16.8 sec., but alas, he couldn't last and neither could some of the others.

Martin Hyman dropped out because of hay fever. Then Bruce Tulloh went. He, running in bare feet, was slipping and sliding all over the place on a track which was nearly a quagmire.

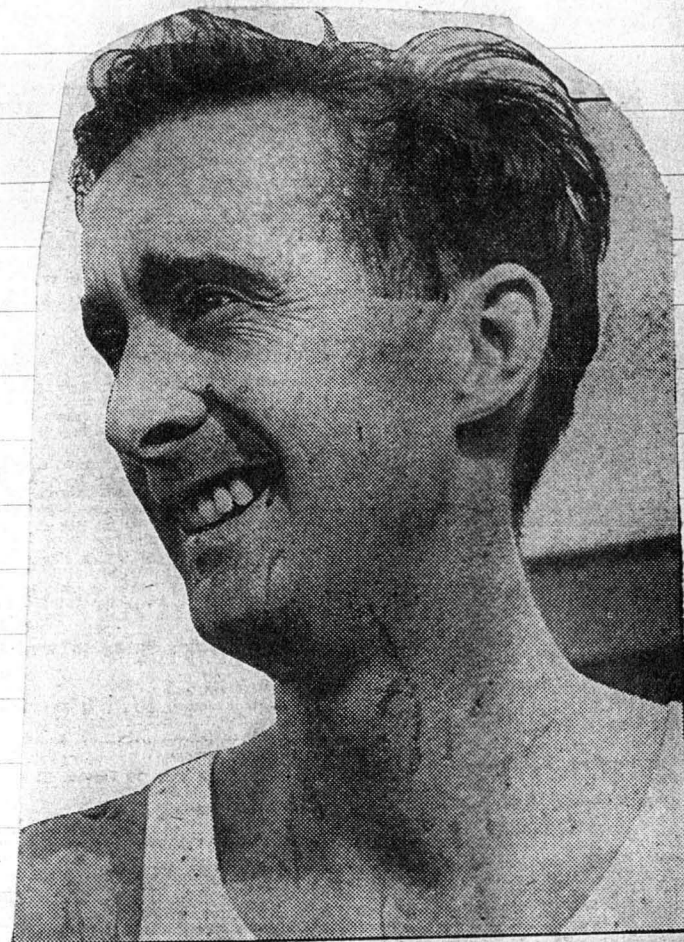
But Gordon was there all the time. He caught Craig and then

A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS 1961

WHITE CITY LONDON



GORDON PIRIE—on the last lap to a great victory in the three-miles race at the White City.



## THE FIRST . . .

● The race is over. Mud-splattered GORDON PIRIE is all smiles after romping home in the three miles at the White City—but he still sportingly hangs about (below) to "welcome home" the last man in — FRANK SALVAT.

## AND LAST



# Pirie: A 65-shilling medal...and friends

By GORDON PIRIE

Winner of the A.A.A. Three Miles

I expected Bruce Tulloh to be the only opposition. When he went out the meaning of the race disappeared. I just ran on to win and did not make a final burst because I felt the conditions were so dangerous I might have fallen or pulled a muscle.



Pirie won a 65-shilling silver and gilt medal.

- 3 MILES
- 1st D. PIRIE - S.L.H. 13min 31.2s
  - 2nd B. COTTINGHAM - LANCASHIRE 13min 40s
  - 3rd M. BULLIVANT - DERBY 13min 45s
  - 4th G. T. BROSSE - LANCASHIRE 13min 52s
  - 5th E. KARL - HEDDERLEY 13min 53s
  - 6th D. RYLE - CANADA 13min 58s
  - 7th B. CRAIG - R.A.F. 13min 59s
  - 8th H. C. ROSS - 11 min 40s



BRITAIN  
U.S.A

London 1961

3 miles

ATHLETICS

# rips Tulloh, whips Americans

By DESMOND HACKETT

**T**HIRTY-YEAR-OLD GORDON PIRIE was once again the blue-eyed boy of a jubilant White City last night when he won the three miles in a new British record time of 13min. 16.4sec. in the Great Britain v. America match in London.

And it was all done in typical Pirie fashion, as though in his farewell season to British athletics he purposely designed the course of this race to cheer up a 12,000 crowd watching the Americans get on with the business of giving Britain an athletic hammering.

The crowd loved every stride by this long-legged, incredible man Pirie, who went swinging so smoothly through the mists of rain that his promise to bow out with new world records for the three and six miles this season looks as though it will be handsomely fulfilled.

Pirie was ably aided and abetted by Bruce Tulloh, still shuffling along shoeless and solemn, who was second by only a pace to Pirie in his best-ever time of 13min. 16.6sec.

## PIRIE PROVES HE'S NEAR RECORD

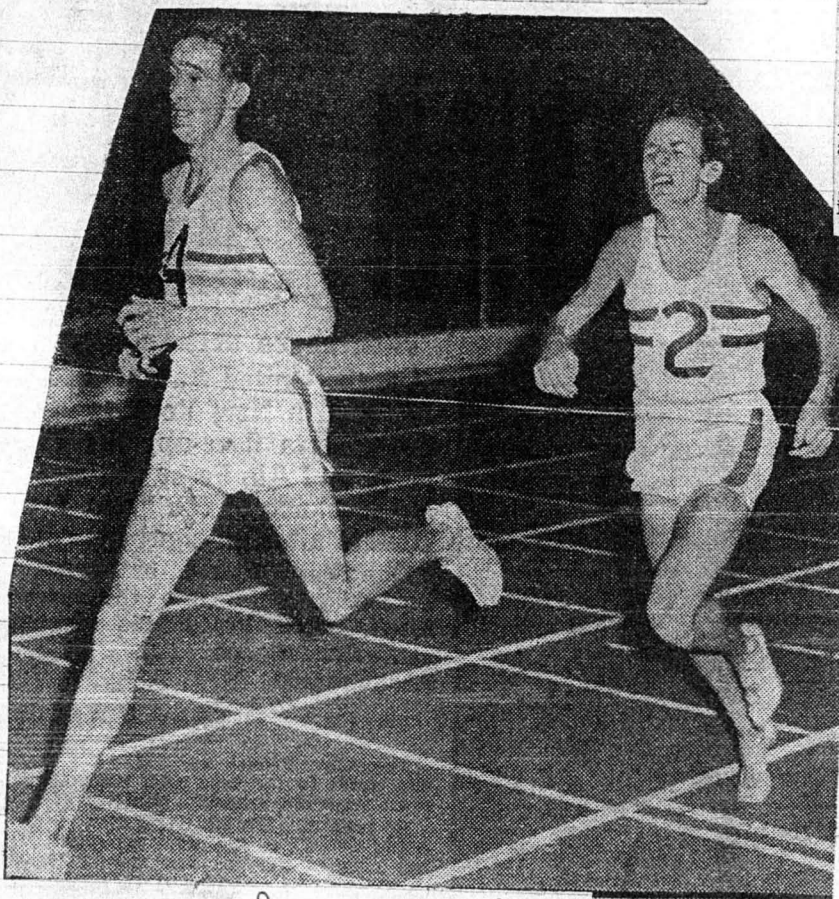
By TERRY O'CONNOR

**G**ORDON PIRIE proved in training this week that he can capture the world three-mile record on Friday at the White City, when he runs against the U.S.

In a 1½-mile training spell Pirie clocked 6min. 27.5sec.—only 1.5sec. outside the British best performance. Yesterday Pirie ran a training mile in 4min. 6.2sec.

"It is my aim to break the world two- and three-mile records before I retire this season," says Pirie. "If conditions are right I will have a go at the three-mile time in the match against the U.S."

Murray Halberg missed beating the three-mile record held by Albert Thomas (Australia) in 13min. 10.8sec. by four-fifths of a second in Dublin on Tuesday.



### Truex on the trail

As the laps were paced away, Pirie and Tulloh took two-lap shifts at leading. All the time there was the sturdy little American, 25-year-old Max Truex, trailing the two Britons.

Truex just kept his place at No. 3, a yard behind, rather like an inquisitive little chap wondering where the others were going.

Truex, tired of being perpetual third man, went into a lead of around six yards as the tight little pack of three moved towards the last lap.

Pirie, almost affronted by this American intervention, glanced back at Tulloh and nodded a kind of "Leave this to me" signal.

Tulloh, with that hunch-shouldered, shuffling style, scampered behind while Pirie imperiously strolled past Truex.

As Pirie took the lead, pale-faced, tiny Tulloh, who looks as though he would be exhausted even running for a bus, scuttled out to the front and that was the end of Truex.

It became a personal duel on the run between the British pair. And in the end, of course, it was Pirie first.

The British pair gravely waited to welcome in Truex, whose time of 13min. 21sec. was a new American record.

With commendable patience, all three waited for the fourth starter, tall Robert Schul, whose time was 13min. 59.6sec. Schul was obviously delighted by the wonderful reception which White City always gives the gallant last man home.

### Rowe record →

Then off went Pirie and Tulloh on a victory lope. It was a Gagarin reception in miniature... so enthusiastic that few noted John C. Thomas failing to top the seven-foot mark and winning the high jump with an almost yawning rise of 6ft. 10in., four inches less than his best height this season.

Pirie said afterwards: "I shall attack the two-mile record in Oslo on Monday at an international meeting."

He wisecracked: "Tonight's time is my second best. My best was 13min. 8sec. when I set the world 5,000-metre record in 1956 when I was a young man."

"Unfortunately, they did not take an official three-mile time in this race, that is why the world record is still listed at 13min. 10.8sec. by the Australian, Albert Thomas."

"On this form Bruce Tulloh and I would have walked into the Olympic final last year, but we didn't because we went to Rome too late."

"The only reason I am run-

## PIRIE FAILS IN TWO-MILE BID

Oslo, Monday.

**O**NLY three days after his amazing three-mile victory at London's White City, Gordon Pirie failed here tonight in his attempt to break the world two-mile record.

He clocked 8min. 44.4sec.—14.4sec. over the unrated mark of New Zealand 5,000 metres champion Murray Halberg and 12.4sec. slower than the official record, set by Albert Thomas of Australia at 8min. 32sec.

On Friday Pirie broke the United Kingdom three-mile record in 13min. 16.4sec. itself only 5.6sec. outside the world time. He then ran the first two miles in 8min. 58.4sec.

Mike Wiggs set the pace in the early part of tonight's race. He and Pirie soon drew well ahead.

Pirie went to the front after half a mile and steadily increased his lead over Wiggs. After about a mile and a quarter he was some 100 yards ahead of Wiggs, who was even farther in front of the rest of the field.

Pirie passed 2,400 metres in the last time of 8min. 25sec., but at 3,000 metres, which he reached in 8min. 7.8sec. He was well behind his own world record of 8min. 52.8sec. for this distance.

He went on to win with ease from Wiggs, who clocked 8min. 44.4sec.

His fellow-countryman, was second in 9min. 2.8sec.

Pirie said afterwards that he was running "fantastically well" in the early part of the race but failed towards the end because of lack of opposition.

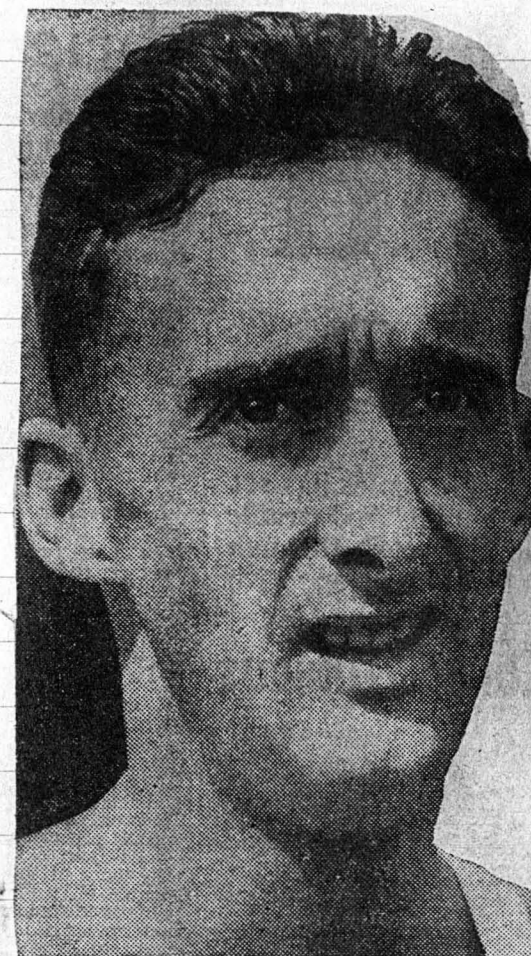
"I am very happy about it, but I need some opposition," he said. "I repeat that it is within my ability to break the record with opposition. I am running better now than in 1956."

—APRIL 1961



Gordon's a glutton for punishment, this is his 20th lap of honour!

Oslo Games 1961



## Istvan to make him puff...

By GEORGE HARLEY

**I**STVAN Rozsavolgyi, third in the Olympic 1,500 metres in Rome last year, will switch to a new distance when Hungary meet Britain at the White City, London, on August 5 and 7.

He will go for the 5,000 metres—and that means lining up against Gordon Pirie and Bruce Tulloh.

### Intriguing

The clash between Rozsavolgyi and Pirie is one of the most intriguing of the year, as they have been contemporary stars on the athletics scene for ten years but have rarely met.

The Hungarian was, however, beaten by

1st D. PIRIE. BRITAIN, 13min 16.4sec  
2nd B. TULLOH. BRITAIN, 13min 16.6sec  
3rd M. TRUEX. U.S.A., 13min 21sec  
4th R. SCHUL. U.S.A., 13min 59.6sec

● GALLOPING  
Gordon Pirie  
sweeps to victory  
in the three miles  
— and smashes  
the record held by  
Bruce Tulloh  
(No. 2).



BRITAIN v HUNGARY WHITE CITY 1961.

# PIRIE FLOPS—NOW FOR 3-MILE BID

GORDON PIRIE flew to Sweden yesterday, determined to prove that his White City flop against the Hungarians was no true indication of his real form. He races over 3,000 metres at Skovde tonight as a warm-up for a world three-mile record bid in Dublin on Thursday, writes Roy Moor.

Before he went, Pirie said: "I was only seconds off the world record in a trial run in Norway last week. My defeat in the 5,000 metres on Saturday was due entirely to my having to do most of the leading in such a difficult wind. The others had the benefit of being sheltered behind me."

"Tulloch and I realised conditions were not suitable for world record-breaking but thought we could still beat Rozsavolgyi and Iharos if we made the pace fast from the start."

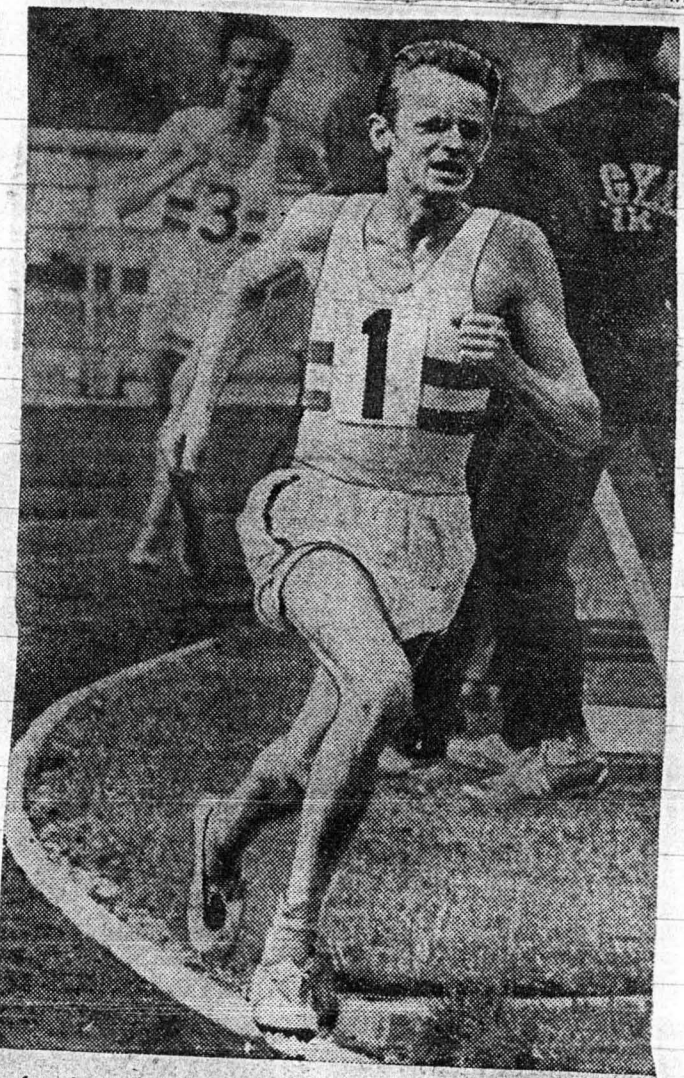
"Unfortunately, the brunt of the pace-setting rested with me, so when the break came at the finish I just hadn't any kick left."

A sprint break 300 yards from the finish by Rozsavolgyi, who had been cruising last all the way, settled it for the Hungarians.

Bruce Tulloh, who chased Rozsavolgyi but never looked like catching him said: "I was expecting a pretty speedy burst to come from Rozsavolgyi—but not as speedy as it turned out."

## No risk

Hungary's surprise win in this event pulled Britain's lead back to a single point for the end of the first day—59 points to 58.



So fast his feet don't even touch the ground! Istvan Rozsavolgyi sprints round the final bend at the White City to beat Gordon Pirie and Bruce Tulloh in the 5,000 metres.

## Pirie slumps

Gordon Pirie, whose form is about as consistent as a switchback, treated his supporters to the usual cycle of boom and slump. This time it was slump with a vengeance. Thirty years of age, he was the junior of the trio of reigning world record holders who lined up for the 5,000-metre event. The other two were Captain Istvan Rozsavolgyi (31), the 2,000-metre world record holder, and Sandor Iharos (31), the world six-mile record holder.

Pirie needed laps of 66.5 sec. apiece in order to make his sole property the United Kingdom all-comers best performance of 13 min. 51.6 sec. which he shares with C. J. Chataway (1954). He and Bruce Tulloh, who is aged 25, took turn about in making the pace, with Rozsavolgyi always at the back.

The first 11½ laps revealed little except that Tulloh looked the most anguished and Rozsavolgyi, who had had the smoothest ride, the smuggest. Just 300 yards from the tape Rozsavolgyi suddenly crouched and, like an angry ostrich opened up a 15-yard gap.

None of the others could muster any immediate response, though Tulloh with great fortitude worked himself up into a long but unavailing chase of the crafty Hungarian, who came home two yards to the good in 14 min. 02.2 sec. after a last lap inside 56 sec. Pirie seemed leaden and lifeless as he struggled home to finish last, nearly 30 yards behind the winner.

1st I. ROZSAVOLGYI. HUNGARY, 14mins 2 1/2 secs  
2nd M. TULLOH. BRITAIN, 14mins 2 5/8 secs  
3rd S. IHAROS. HUNGARY, 14mins 3 1/4 secs  
4th D. PIRIE. BRITAIN, 14mins 9 secs.

Gordon Pirie wins in Sweden  
SKOVDE, Sweden.  
GORDON PIRIE won a 3,000

DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS. August 1961



A smiling Gordon Pirie, fully recovered from the exertions of his three mile win at Santry last night—shows his feet in bandages—holds the tape for Mick Doyle (Crusaders) whom he lapped during the race.

## Bandaged Pirie wins easily

By SID MAGUIRE

GORDON PIRIE, running with only bandages on his feet, coasted to a comfortable 13min. 31.8sec. victory in the three miles at Santry stadium, Dublin, last night.

A slow first mile in 4min. 26 sec. dashed any hopes he might have had of breaking Murray Halberg's recent world record of 13min. 10sec.

Pirie told me afterwards: "I run this way because I have been getting blisters when I run in shoes."

1st G. PIRIE, ENGLAND, 13min 31 7/8 sec  
2nd M. MEVILLE, IRE, 14min 1 5/8 sec  
3rd J. LIMAKER, SCOTLAND, 14min 11 1/4 sec

## Strolling Pirie wanted a push

From ALLAN CAVE  
DUBLIN, Thursday.

GORDON PIRIE was all smiles after winning the three miles race in 13min. 31.8sec. here tonight.

"That's good enough for a one-man effort," he said. "If the Great Britain selectors want me back in their team it's perfectly O.K. by me."

"I'll be glad to be in. But if they want to bring in young 'uns I'm still content."

This was Pirie's reaction to being dropped from the international scene.

Pirie's running was magnificent. The crowd were with him all the time, but the hoped-for world figures (13min. 10sec.) were out of the question.

It was a creditable race by Pirie. In fact, it was hardly a race at all—yet Pirie, by sheer guts, with no-one really to push him did all he knew to make it thrilling.





ROGER BOGEY.  
FRANCE.



MICHEL BERNARD.  
FRANCE.



MICHAEL JAZY.  
FRANCE.



DAN WAERN.  
SWEDEN.



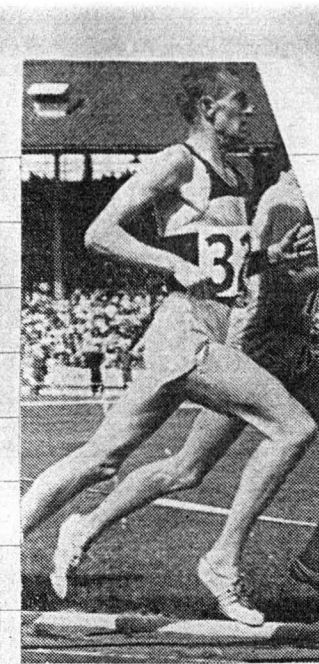
GORDON PIRIE.  
SCOTLAND.



ROGER MOENS.  
BELGIUM.



LECH BOGUSZEWICZ.  
POLAND.



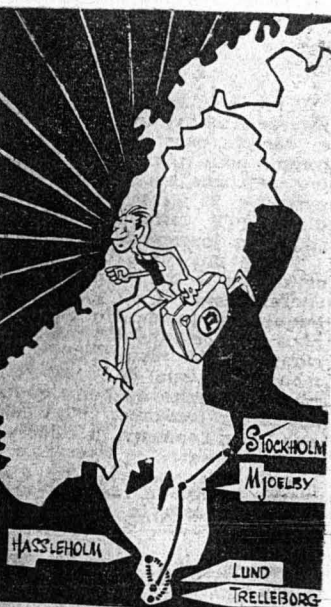
MIKE WIGGS.  
BRITAIN.

## TOUR OF SOUTHERN SWEDEN AUGUST 1961

August 11th 1961

HÄSSLEHOLM - 3,000 METRES

- 1st PIRIE, 8min 48sec  
2nd BOGUSZEWICZ, 8min 50sec  
3rd JAZY, 8min 10sec  
4th WIGGS, 8min 11sec



La « petite tournée » des Français en Suède se poursuit. Après Stockholm (11-12 août), Mjölby (14 août) et Lund (15 août), Bernard, Bogey et Jazy seront ce soir à Hässleholm et demain à Trelleborg.

August 10th 1961

VÄSTERÅS - 1,500 METRES

- 1st PIRIE, 3min 46sec  
2nd LARSSON, 3min 46sec  
3rd JONSSON, 3min 47sec

3,000 METRES

- 1st PIRIE, 8min 9sec  
2nd BERGMAN, 8min 21sec  
3rd BERNARD, 8min 23sec



15/8 LUND  
1500m  
1 Dan Waern  
3.42.3  
2 G. Pirie  
3.43.4

13/8 OXELÖSUND  
1500m  
1 Dan Waern  
3.47.7  
2 G. P.

August 15th 1961

- AT LUND - 1,500 METRES  
1st WAERN, 3min 42.3sec  
2nd PIRIE, 3min 43.4sec  
3rd JAZY, 3min 44.5sec  
4th BOGUSZEWICZ, 3min 45.6sec  
5th WIGGS, 3min 46.7sec  
6th BOGEY, 3min 47.8sec

5,000 METRES

- 1st PIRIE, 14min 28sec  
2nd BERNARD, 14min 29sec

## Best '1,500' by Pirie

LUND, Sweden, Tuesday. GORDON PIRIE equalled his personal best time for the 1,500 metres of 3min. 43.4sec. when he finished second to Dan Waern, of Sweden, here tonight. Waern's time was 3min. 42.3sec. An hour later, in heavy rain, Pirie won the 5,000 metres in 14min. 7.2sec. Among the runners Pirie beat in the 1,500 metres were Jazy and Bogey of France and Mike Wiggs of Britain.—Agencies.

August 18th 1961

- AT TRELLEBORG - 3,000 METRES  
1st PIRIE, 8min 56sec  
2nd BOGEY, 8min 57sec  
3rd BERNARD, 8min 58sec  
MOENS  
JAZY

## PIRIE NEARS OWN RECORD

August 18th, Trelleborg (Sweden): Details of the great 3,000m race reported last month. Track and weather conditions were excellent as no fewer than five world record holders lined up for the start (Gordon Pirie, Michel Bernard, Robert Bogey, Michel Jazy and Roger Moens). The 800m recordman set a fast pace: 62.5 at 400m, 2:05.8 at 800m. Jazy took over at 900m and maintained the lively tempo to pass 1200m in 3:09.0 and 1600m in 4:12.0. The pace slowed with Bernard in front—2,000m in 5:16.6, 2,400m in 6:21.5. With 300m to go, Pirie sailed majestically ahead of the sagging Bernard and was never in danger of being caught by Bogey. The times: 7:54.8 (2 sec. outside Pirie's own world record), 7:56.1 (French rec) and 7:57.6. Moens and Jazy did not finish.

## PIRIE TWO SECONDS OFF OWN RECORD

GORDON PIRIE just failed to beat his own 1,000 metre world record at an international meeting in Trelleborg, Sweden, last night.

He won in 7m. 54.8s.—the best time in the world this year, but two seconds outside his best time, which was set in 1956.

Robert Bogey was second in 7m. 56.1s., a French national record, and another Frenchman, Michel Bernard, was third in 7m. 56.6s.

August 21st 1961

- AT OXELÖSUND - 1,500 METRES  
1st WAERN, 3min 41sec  
2nd PIRIE, 3min 50sec

5,000 METRES

- 1st PIRIE, 14min 28sec

## LE 3.000 METRES TOUR PAR TOUR

- 400 m.: 62" 5 (62" 5) : Moens.  
800 m.: 2' 5" 8 (63" 3) : Moens.  
1,200 m.: 3' 9" (63" 2) : Jazy.  
1,600 m.: 4' 12" (63") : Jazy.  
2,000 m.: 5' 16" 6 (64" 6) : Bernard.  
2,400 m.: 6' 21" 6 (65") : Bernard.



# PIRIE RACES—BUT WHAT AN INSULT

By TERRY O'CONNOR

GORDON PIRIE, left out of the skeleton team after the match with Hungary, will now run for Britain in West Germany and Poland next month. But he gets in only because John Merriman and Mike Bullivant are not available for Dortmund (September 1-3) and Warsaw (September 6-7).

And the British board are saved from committing the folly of dropping the best middle-distance runner in the country.

This is an insult to Pirie, who, since the war, has done more for the sport than any other athlete or official.

For this is the same man who was considered so important that his return fare from Stockholm was paid three times this season from British athletic funds.

Yesterday Mr. Jack Crump, secretary of the board, refused to comment on Pirie's selection.

He would only say that Merriman was unable to compete because he is getting married and Bullivant is unavailable.

Pirie was not included in the skeleton team because some members of the board felt they should pick new runners who would be available next year, after he retires.

Now Pirie is named with Brian Craig, Basil Heatley, Brian Hill-Cottingham, Martin Hyman and Bruce Tulloh for the 5,000 and 10,000 metres.

In view of his 1500 metres time of 3min. 43.4sec. in Sweden this week he might now be called on for this event.



Gordon Pirie, the ex-bank clerk from Coulsdon who was written off as a British international after his flop showing against Hungary at White City during the August Bank Holiday meeting, will run again for Britain, after all. He was named to-day for the party to tour Germany and Poland next month.

## Tulloh gets his record back

BRUCE TULLOCH, barefoot wonder, night ran to a new European and U.K. three-mile record. On a grass track at Hampton he knocked off Gordon Pirie's 13min. 12sec. U.K. record with a 13min. 12sec.

This is only 1.2sec. Australian Albert Thomas's time was set at White City against the U.K. on July 21.

The previous all-comers 15min. 15sec. was set by Zealander Murray Halberg at the Empire Games at Cardiff, 1958.

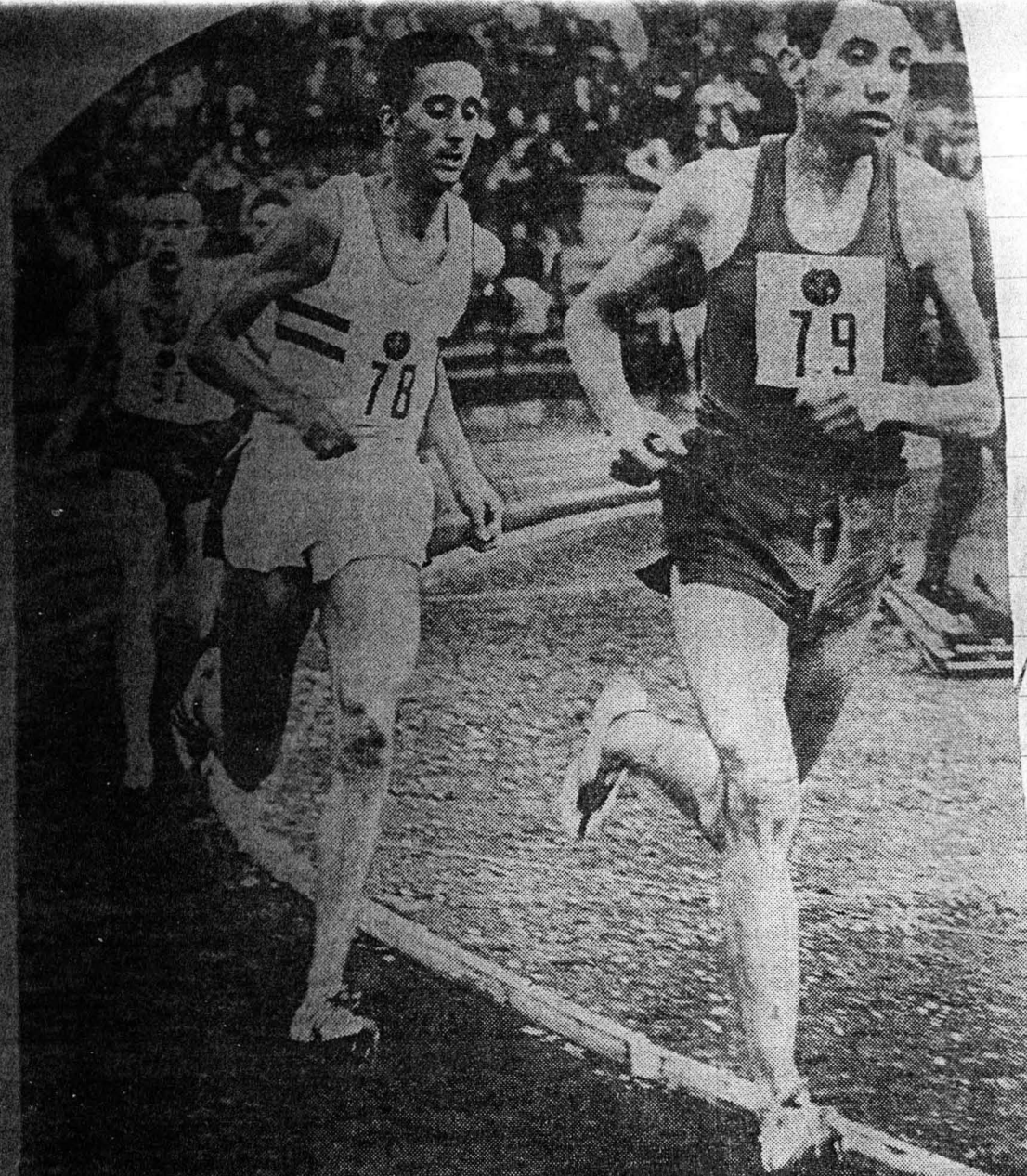
### Regained

For the first two miles last night Tulloh was pace-fellow international pacemaker Hyman. With the record Tulloh completed the lap in 58.4sec.

Tulloch lost his U.K. and national records when he finished 0.2sec. behind Pirie at White City race.

The European record has been held since 1955 by Sander of Hungary with a time of 13min. 14.2sec.

In Sweden: Gordon Pirie to a 5,000-metre win in 14.8sec. last night—his best of the year. Then he won of Tulloh's record victory. "Great—send him my congratulations," said Pirie. "Nothing after I set the record." July Bruce told me it would stand for a long time.



Den harde og spennende 1500 meter på Bislet: Franskmannen Michel Bernard leder feltet med Gordon Pirie litt efter. På tredje plass Thor Helland, som forbedret sin personlige rekord med drøye 2 sekunder.

## BISLET GAMES. OSLO. 1961.

### 1,500 METRES.

1st	PIRIE	BRITAIN	3mins 42 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub> secs.
2nd	BERNARD	FRANCE	3mins 42 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>10</sub> secs.
3rd	HELLAND	NORWAY	3mins 45 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub> secs.
4th	TUNSETH	NORWAY	3mins 52.0secs.

### PIRIE'S ZIPPY OSLO VICTORY

Gordon Pirie won an international 1,500 metres race in Oslo last night in 3min. 42.5sec., the fastest time by a British runner this year. Second was France's Michel Bernard, 3-42.7 and third Thor Helland (Norway) 3-45.5.

Previous British best was a 3-42.8 by Ken Wood.

## British aces may face pay probe

STAR British and Commonwealth athletes may be involved in investigations which the International Amateur Athletic Federation are making into Swedish payments to runners.

The federation, I understand, have called for the dossier of Sweden's own inquiry, which followed a magazine "confession" by their four-minute miler Dan Waern.

Waern wrote: "I admit I am not an amateur. I cannot afford to be." But the Swedish investigators decided that he was an amateur, after all.

The Swedish evidence almost certainly contains references to payments made to British and Commonwealth runners.

### WAERN BEATS PIRIE

Gordon Pirie was beaten into second place by Dan Waern, of Sweden, in a 1,500 metres race at Oxelsund, Sweden, yesterday. Waern's time of 3mins 47.7secs was 2.9secs better than Pirie's.

Another newspaper alleges that at Oxelsund on August 27th, 1961 (where he ran a 3:47.7 1500m ahead of Gordon Pirie) Waern asked for 1 crown (1s. 5d.) per spectator, with a minimum guarantee of 750 crowns (about £50). Three thousand fans watched the meet, and Waern was duly paid 3,000 crowns (about £200)—over £50 per minute's running. The organisers stated they had "only accorded Waern that which is normally authorised by the Swedish Association's





# PROBE PIRIE CASH

From SYDNEY HULLS

Gordon Pirie won a 5,000 metres race in appalling weather in a time of 14min. 44.4sec. at Pori, South Finland.

STOCKHOLM, Thursday.—Cash payments made to British world record-breaker Gordon Pirie are being examined down to the last crown by the Swedish Amateur Athletic Association.

Bertil Larsson, £2,000-a-year boss of Swedish athletics, told me today:—

"The British Amateur Athletics Board asked us to investigate a report that Gordon Pirie received £100 for racing in the Swedish town of Oxelosund on August 30.

"That means we have to examine the accounts of all meetings where Pirie has run.

## WORKING HARD

"You understand that when big sums like return London to Stockholm air fares are concerned they are sometimes spread over several meetings.

"We are working hard—but I do not think we shall be able to give the British Board an answer for another week."

By that time "Puff Puff" Pirie's 20-year career will be over. So, even if he were found to have broken the amateur rule, suspension should not worry him unduly.

One thing is certain. The Swedes are not aiming to blow the lid off shamateurism in revenge for the suspension of their No. 1 star, four-minute miler Dan Waern.

General secretary Larsson says: "There is no question of our president, Nils Carlus, going to England to give the International Amateur Athletic Federation a list of names of track stars who have raced for pay."

## SIGH OF RELIEF

Ace athletes—breathe a sigh of relief.

Says Larsson: "We want people to know that stars get money—but we are not naming the stars.

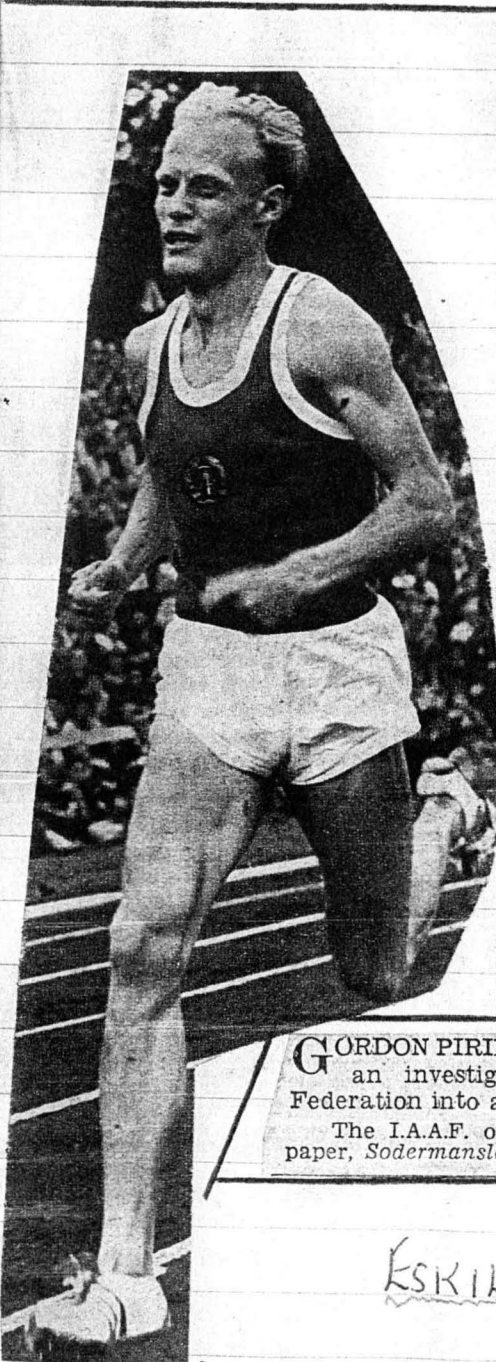
"With Waern we had no choice. Waern told his story in a newspaper and the authorities are now investigating whether he has evaded income tax by not declaring money received in excess of his legitimate expenses.

"Our aim is to get 'broken time' payments passed at the next Congress of the I.A.A.F., the world controlling body, at Belgrade in September 1962."

GORDON PIRIE and other prominent international athletes could be involved in an investigation being launched by the International Amateur Athletics Federation into alleged illegal payments to competitors at meetings in Sweden.

The I.A.A.F. offices in London have been informed of a report in a Swedish newspaper, *Sodermanslands Nyheter*, which claims Pirie received 1,500 Swedish Kroner (£100) for running in Oxelosund last night.

GORDON PIRIE won a combined 3,000 metres and two miles race at Boraas (Sweden) last night. First past the 3,000 metres mark in 8m. 52s. he completed the two miles in 8m 42.4s.



SIEGFRIED VALENTIN.  
EAST GERMANY.

1,500 METRE MATCH.  
ESKILSTUNA, SWEDEN

1st Race:— 1st. PIRIE, 3min 46.8sec  
2nd. VALENTIN, 3min 46.8sec

2nd Race:— 1st. VALENTIN, 3min 46.8sec  
2nd. PIRIE 3min 47.5sec

Dan Waern, the Swedish champion who won the race, is reported to have received 3,000 kronor.

Mr. Don Pain, secretary of the I.A.A.F., said yesterday that if the report is true Pirie would be disqualified from international competition.

Pirie told me last night: "There have been many funny remarks like this in Swedish papers. Herb Elliott and Derek Ibbotson have also been mentioned."

Pirie was beaten by the East German champion Siegfried Valentin (3min. 46.8sec.) in a 1,500 metres at Eskilstuna, Sweden, last night. Pirie's time was 3min. 47.5sec.

On Saturday Pirie joins the British team in Dortmund for the match against West Germany and hopes to be selected for the

DICKSON INTERNATIONAL MILE

STOCKHOLM

1961



STOCKHOLM. Dan Waern här satt i gång sin långspurt, som knäckte världsstjärnorna. Närmast bakom Waern: världens världsenan på 1 500 meter, polacken Baran, och längst t. v. loppets tvåa, östtysken Valentin.

1st (3min 46.8sec)	DAN WAERN, SWEDEN	3min 50.9sec
2nd (3min 46.8sec)	SIEGFRIED VALENTIN, GERMANY	3min 46.8sec
3rd (3min 46.8sec)	WILHELM BARAN, POLAND	3min 46.8sec
4th (3min 46.8sec)	MICHAEL BERTHIAUX, FRANCE	3min 46.8sec
5th (3min 46.8sec)	GORDON PIRIE, BRITAIN	3min 47.5sec
6th (3min 46.8sec)	SVEN LARSSON, SWEDEN	3min 47.5sec





# Pirie is banned after row

From DOUG WILSON: Dortmund, Saturday

A FLAMING row between Jack Crump and Gordon Pirie in the lounge of the luxury Romischer Kaiser Hotel here today has resulted in the 30-year-old Pirie being dropped from the British team for the match against West Germany.

He has also been barred from running individually anywhere in Europe outside the United Kingdom.

## LATE ARRIVAL

The cause of the trouble was Pirie's late arrival. He did not report until 1 p.m. today, having run in Stockholm last night.

Team manager Sage and other members of the Board were expecting Pirie to arrive last night. And they consider he has



PIRIE



CRUMP

shown scant regard for the British team by running only 24 hours before the match against Germany.

Pirie told me: "I have done my duty by arriving here to take part in the match. And what's more I came here when I said I would."

"I spoke to Jack Crump on the telephone last Monday and it was understood that I would arrive today."

## 'VERY CROSS'

Jack Crump said, "I would never have agreed to this sort of thing. Gordon was expected here last night and I am very, very cross that he did not come."

# A.A.A. slap ban on Pirie

Standard Athletics Reporter DORTMUND, Saturday.—

Gordon Pirie arrived here today and walked into one of the biggest rows of his turbulent athletics career. Pirie, who travelled from Sweden to join the British team for the match against West Germany, today and tomorrow, found that he had been dropped—and banned—from competing outside Britain.

British Board secretary Jack Crump announced this after Pirie had failed to appear here last night. Said Crump: "I have sent a telegram to the Swedish authorities in Stockholm forbidding them to allow him to run. Pirie did not receive his instructions to come to Dortmund, but I spoke to him on the telephone and he said he would be in Dortmund on Friday night."

"We understand that Pirie may run in Stockholm tonight. I have sent a telegram to the Swedes expressly forbidding Pirie to do so, and withdrawing the previously granted permission to compete in Sweden," said Crump.

## Stern

The effect of this is to prevent Pirie from running outside Britain. No sooner had this stern announcement been made and Crump, with other Board officials disappeared to an official function when Pirie walked into the team's hotel with his version of the story.

Pirie said: "Mr. Crump told me by telephone that it would be all right if I arrived in Dortmund at midday on Saturday." But Pirie did admit that he ran last night in Stockholm, finishing fifth in a mile in 4min 3.2sec.

This is undoubtedly going to cause concern among British officials.

But Pirie is not worried. "I did run last night but as an athlete that's up to me. I have been showing recently that I can run on several days without ill-effect."

Pirie and Crump will meet later this afternoon.

## JON'S SPORTING TYPES



"It's either an H-bomb test in Siberia or it's Pirie again!"

# Witch-hunt, says Pirie as probe begins

From TERRY O'CONNOR

DORTMUND, Monday.

BRITAIN'S athletic chief Jack Crump has asked Sweden to investigate allegations in Swedish newspapers that Gordon Pirie has been paid for running.

This latest episode in an explosive athletic row caused Pirie to retort today: "I am now the victim of a witch-hunt. Everything seems set to stop me running again."

But the Swedish Athletic Association said today they had no evidence which would prevent Pirie running as an amateur. In fact, they are seeking permission for him to run in Malmö, Gothenburg, and Karlstad next week.

## Bewildered

Pirie is bewildered. He is convinced he can break another world record. But it was pathetic to watch him driving himself in trainings here today for a race he may never be able to run.

Mr. Phil Gale, a member of the British Athletics Board, said Pirie may be allowed to run and also invited to compete in the England-Russia match at the White City on September 19-20.

But his is only a personal view and another meeting of the board will be needed to ensure Pirie's release.

Some members of the British team wanted to protest about the treatment of Pirie. Others were apathetic. And Pirie has said that a strike among competitors is the only way to break the "dictatorship" of certain officials.

Pole-vaulter Rex Porter talked sound sense when he said: "Imagination is needed in handling temperamental athletes. It was the officials who gave Pirie so much freedom, so why do they complain now?"

# 'Bosses force me out'

By DESMOND HACKETT

GORDON PIRIE, Britain's most explosive athlete on the running tracks of the world, was a sad man when he told me: "The ban by the British Amateur Athletics Board means that my career is ended, and that I have already run my last race in England."

Pirie was pinned at an emergency meeting in Germany yesterday and sacked from the team which competed against West Germany. He is barred from travelling with the British team to meet Poland this week.

And the British Board also banned him from racing in Scandinavia until further notice.

Pirie, the world 3,000-metre record holder, condemned this move as "another example of the dictatorship of British Amateur Athletics officials."

The decision to fire Pirie was made after he had failed to report at the British headquarters on Saturday. Pirie explained:

"I ran in Stockholm on Friday because I felt in splendid condition and I have never been running so well in my life."

"I think I know enough about my condition to know I could run in Sweden and still give my best for the team. But here is Jack Crump trying to tell me where and when I should run! Surely, after all these years, I should be the better judge?"

## PERSONAL

"So far as I can see this is a personal thing. I am too much of an individualist and that is the crux of it. It is the same personal feud that caused Geoff Dyson to resign as Chief National Coach. He too had firm, personal opinions."

Pirie was asked to attend the board meeting which barred him from running for England. He refused, with this explanation:

"I had a stormy talk with Jack Crump and I felt there was nothing more to say. I phoned Jack Crump during the week asking if I could report on Saturday, and now this is denied. So I saw no point in saying it all over again to the board."

Pirie pondered and then said sincerely: "I wanted so very much to run for England. I was not allowed to compete."

I was not even permitted to go on to the centre of the track where I might have been able to encourage some of my old friends in the British team."

Pirie, who has brought more spectators to London's White City than any other athletic star, was hoping to make a fond farewell in the Britain v. Russia match next month.

"If I am banned from this too, I will ask the promoters if I can run a farewell lap in London."

## CRUMP'S VIEW

Mr. Jack Crump insisted: "During his stay in Europe, Pirie is under the jurisdiction of the British board. The board cannot suspend an athlete, but they can withdraw permission for Pirie to run in Scandinavia."

Mr. Crump added that the A.A.A. Touring Committee had asked Pirie to appear before them in connection with Press statements that the runner had infringed International Amateur Athletic Federation Rules by accepting payment for racing in Scandinavia.

Mr. Crump explained the board had accepted Pirie's complete denial of such reports and that this had no relation to the decision to withdraw Pirie from the West Germany and Poland Games.



# DEAR OLD PALS

Gordon Pirie gets a helping hand from Jack Crump after collapsing on the last lap during a crack at the world's six miles record. That was six years ago.

# -BUT NOT FOR LONG!



# PIRIE PLEADS FOR A FAREWELL LAP

From GEORGE HARLEY

Dortmund, Sunday

GORDON PIRIE has run his last race for Britain. He was told today that he would not accompany the British team to Warsaw for the match with Poland on Wednesday and Thursday.

In effect, he has been sent home by the British Amateur Athletics Board.

Home for Pirie is Sweden, where he has been living while on a visit

to Europe from New Zealand. He will fly to Stockholm tomorrow.

Twenty-four hours earlier, the Board had barred Pirie from running in Scandinavia, where he had planned to race four times next week.

"It looks as if I have run my last race," Pirie told me. "If so, I

shall make one final request to the Board—that I be allowed to run a farewell lap at the White City, London, during the England v. Russia match on September 19-20.

"I should pay my own fare from Stockholm to London to do so. I want to make my last track appearance there. It would be the least I could do to show my appreciation of the support and encouragement I have received from the British public."

Pirie, an outstanding and controversial personality in world sport for over ten years, has been disciplined by the Board for two reasons.

First, for failing to report to Dortmund on Friday for the match with West Germany, which began yesterday. Secondly, for declining to meet the Board this morning.

## Shocked

The Board were shocked to learn that Pirie had run a mile race in Stockholm on Friday evening. They chose the team for the match with Germany yesterday morning—two hours before Pirie booked in at the hotel.

This morning, Jack Crump, secretary of the Board, issued two statements.

The first said that the Board had decided Pirie would not accompany the

**'Let me say goodbye in London..'**

team to Warsaw. He had been asked to appear before them, but had declined, saying he saw no point in doing so.

The second said that a sub-committee had asked Pirie to appear before them in connection with Press reports that he had accepted payment for taking part in races in Scandinavia.

"Pirie, who appeared, was asked if he was able to deny completely such reports," added the statement. "He said he did deny them."

## Closed

There is no connection between the two statements.

The Board's decisions about Pirie were taken before he was given the opportunity to deny allegations of running for payment.

As far as the Board are concerned, Pirie's denial closes the matter.

## Athletics

# WAERN SUSPENDED AFTER EXPENSES INQUIRY

DAN WAERN, of Sweden, one of the world's greatest middle-distance runners, has been suspended by the International Amateur Athletic Federation from international competition.

A statement issued by the Federation in London yesterday reads:

"As no unequivocal denial has been received from the Swedish Association to our several inquiries, including our letter dated Aug. 21 asking whether Dan Waern has, or has not, received more than legitimate expenses to which he is entitled under I.A.A.F. eligibility rules, he is no longer eligible for international competition and all member countries are being informed of his suspension as from Sept. 5, 1961."

Waern, 28, has won at least half a dozen mile races in under four minutes. He has been running brilliantly recently, particularly in his own country.

Mr. Bertil Larsson, general secretary of the Swedish AAA, said in Stockholm that the suspension had come as something of a surprise. He added that a meeting of the Swedish Association's Executive had been planned for Sept. 11 and 12 when a final report on the Waern case had been promised.

## TAX DISCOVERY

### Swedish Threat

JAMES COOTE writes: The Swedish Federation originally examined the Waerne case because of an income tax query. The tax men, while examining Waerne's yearly income, noticed that he had purchased an expensive farm, apparently without a source of revenue.

On looking further, they found that Waerne had accepted this money from sources connected with athletics. When his case went before the Swedish Federation they only reprimanded him, saying that, although he was guilty, other athletes were doing the same thing.



Dan Waern, whose suspension is effective immediately.

All this means athletics war. For the Swedes say they hold signed statements from top-class athletes from many countries admitting excessive expenses. Now that their man has been suspended they will release this evidence.

There must be a number of athletes who are not sleeping soundly these nights.

# PIRIE IN

## Exeter warns: We must have truth from the Swedes

BRITAIN'S athletics selectors relented this weekend and asked Gordon Pirie to run the 5,000 metres against Russia on September 19-20.

But his clash with officialdom may not be over. Last night in Stockholm his amateur status was still under investigation.

The Marquis of Exeter, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, last night warned that Sweden will be ordered to report frankly to national associations when any athletes are suspected of being involved in meetings at which improper payments were made.

By

TERRY O'CONNOR

Meanwhile the Swedish athletic federation announced that Dan Waern had been permanently banned from international competition.

They also discussed whether to reveal the names on their black list. All they would say on Pirie's position was:

"We will inform the British board of our decision. The position is very delicate."

In an exclusive interview Lord Exeter told me: "I do not make the rules. But it is my duty to see they are carried out. Whether they are good or bad it is not for me to comment."

"We have had a number of inquiries from other federations about the allegations of excess payments to athletes in Sweden. It is important this cloud over amateur athletics is cleared up."

"If any country wants the rules changed it is up to them to make proposals at the Congress meeting in Belgrade next year. About five years ago the Swedish association proposed alterations to the amateur status rules, but they were overwhelmingly turned down."

## No request

"In the case of Dan Waern the International Federation were forced to act because we could not receive a denial from the Swedish association. We only act as a last resort."

There have been a number of reports that Sweden is sending a representative to meet Lord Exeter and present a number of names of athletes who have broken the rules.

"I have heard this only unofficially," he said.

Pirie celebrated his selection for the White City by running yesterday a 1,500-metre time trial in 3min. 45.4sec.

## BANNED—BUT HE CAN'T STOP RUNNING!



ONE of the most pathetic sights in sport—Gordon Pirie preparing for a race he may never be asked to run.

That is what I saw at Chelsea yesterday as this amazing man trained with fanatical zeal after being disciplined, sent home from Germany, and told his amateur status is being investigated.

Last night Pirie should have been competing for Britain before thousands of spectators in Warsaw. Instead he tortured himself and exhausted four pacemakers by running a three-mile trial in 13min. 41.2sec.

After his wife, Shirley, told him his time he said: "That's faster than anyone ran at Dortmund when I was dropped."

Did Pirie plan such a brutal training spell just to prove how wrong were the British selectors he calls dictators? NO... The truth is he cannot stop running.



"It is not easy to change from a 15-year routine," he says.

And he adds: "The men who run British athletics and like to order me around are unlikely to let me compete in Sweden next week now the truth about running for money is coming into the open."

But whatever the investigations prove, I know that I have still lost money on air fares to athletic meetings.

In Germany, I was angry. I said that if I were prevented from competing in Sweden I would not even if invited run at the White City against Russia on September 19-20.

Now I realise it means everything to me to be given the chance of saying goodbye to the British public before I retire. My real ambition is to be given

## Athlete Waern is suspended

By HAROLD PALMER

Dan Waern, the 28-year-old crack Swedish miller, has been ruled out of world athletics by the International Federation because his own association does not deny allegations that he has been paid illegal expenses.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation, who have had Waern's case under review for several months, insisted on the Swedish Federation giving them a definite "Yes" or "No" to the allegations which have appeared, particularly in the Swedish Press.

## Dissatisfied

Apparently dissatisfied with the replies they received to letters and cables addressed to the Swedish Federation, the IAAF, through their secretary—London bank executive Donald Payne—addressed a final appeal to the Swedes yesterday.

In effect, it said that if the Swedes could not answer "No" by return, the International Federation would clamp down a worldwide suspension as from today. And this means that Waern cannot run at home.



# Gordon Pirie Runs Brilliantly In County Road Relay



A brilliant last leg by Gordon Pirie took his club, South London Harriers, to a comfortable victory in the senior event in the Surrey A.A.A. County Relay Championships at Woking on Saturday.

South London, with a team which included Olympic runner Laurie Reed and Surrey County runner R. Darchambaud, as well as Pirie, were always within striking distance of the leaders; over the last two legs they pulled clear to win by over two minutes in 84min. 13.4sec.

This was Pirie's fourth visit to Woking Park for the county relays (he holds the lap record at 13min. 25sec.).

Gordon's only comment on the reports that a Swedish promoter was trying to match him against Dan Waern, an encounter to involve several thousand pounds, was that he only knew what he had read about the proposed race in the papers.

## Road Relay

### PIRIE SPURS VICTORY

Gordon Pirie turned out for his club in the Surrey County road relay championship at Woking yesterday and ran the fastest lap (2.94 miles) with a time of 13 min. 29.4 sec. He helped South London Harriers to victory, the team completing the six stages in 84 min. 13.4 sec.

Herne Hill Harriers were runners-up in 86 min. 20.8 sec. and Hercules A.C. were third in 87 min. 27.8 sec. After Pirie, the fastest runners were A. Towl (Herne Hill) 13 min. 44 sec. and S. Langridge (S. London H.) 13 min. 48 sec.

## Pirie takes to the road

GORDON PIRIE will be racing again today—for South London Harriers in the Surrey road relay championship at Woking. It will be his first competitive run since he was dropped from Britain's team against West Germany last week-end—and a far cry from a race planned for him, according to Swedish reports, at Stockholm on September 24.

A Stockholm firm said they would ask Pirie to run a mile against suspended Swedish ace Dan Waern for a £360 prize—apparently thinking Pirie was suspended, too, and might consider a professional race.

But Pirie was NOT suspended when he was "disciplined" in Germany, and an official hint was given yesterday that he will be invited to run for Britain later this month against Russia and France.

# BOSSSES FORGIVE PIRIE

## ATHLETICS

By SYDNEY HULLS

GORDON PIRIE will run 5,000 metres for England against Russia in the two-day international match at London's White City on September 19 and 20.

Four days later Pirie has been invited also to race for Great Britain against France in Paris.

The two invitations form a remarkable and very human "come back—all is forgiven" gesture to Pirie by our top athletic officials.

There was the fear that Pirie might never be asked to run for his country again after he had been dropped from the recent tour of Poland and Germany because, it was alleged, he did not report to team headquarters on time.

## 'NO' TO PARIS

It means that for the last big individual event of his 20-year career Pirie has the chance of giving a champion's farewell to his faithful fans.

Pirie told me last night: "I shall accept the invitation to race against Russia. There I expect I shall be meeting the Rome Olympic 10,000-metre gold medalist Pyotr Bolotnikov. But I don't think I shall be going to Paris."

Suggestions that the British Amateur Athletic Board have asked for details about Pirie's racing in Sweden were denied by secretary Jack Crump last night.

Said Crump: "We are not witch-hunting. Pirie has categorically denied to us that he has broken the amateur rule. We have accepted his word."

Late last night Pirie was trying to contact England team manager Les Golding to find out if any certain race order for the Russia match had been reached.

"Until I know for sure that my mile relay hopes do not clash with the 5,000-metre race, I cannot say whether or not I shall accept this invitation," Pirie told me.

And Pirie has not long to find out.

He missed his plane to Sweden yesterday, takes off today for meetings at Gothenburg, Karlstad, and Norrköping on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

"I shall try and get the night flight back to race at Kingston on Saturday," says globetrotter Gordon.

ULLEVI SEPTEMBER GAMES.  
GOTHENBURG 1961.

## GORDON PIRIE WINS SWEDISH RACE

Gordon Pirie, world record holder for the distance, won the 3,000 metres in 8min 7sec at an international meeting in Gothenburg yesterday, reports Reuter. This is 14.3sec outside the world time.

Gaston Roelants, the Belgian steeplechase champion, led almost throughout until Pirie passed him on the last lap



Vilka löpbegåvningar ni har här i landet, säger Pirie,

3000 METRES:	1st,	Gordon Pirie	BRITAIN	8min 7sec
	2nd,	Gaston Roelants	BELGIUM	8min 12 2/5 sec
	3rd,	Osvaldo Suarez	ARGENTINE	8min 18 4/5 sec
	4th	Lars Gustafsson	SWEDEN	8min 19 sec
	5th	Ose Karlsson	SWEDEN	8min 21 6/5 sec

KARLSTAD 1961

## PIRIE SLOWER

Gordon Pirie won a 3,000 metres race at Karlstad (Sweden) last night in 8m. 17.7s.—nearly 11s. slower than his time in Gothenburg the night before.

NORRKÖPING 1961

## EASY FOR PIRIE

Gordon Pirie won a 1,500 metres race at Norrköping, Sweden, last night in 3m. 48s.

The second man home, Steve Rindetoft, took 3m. 52.1s.





By TERRY O'CONNOR

BRITISH athletics sees the end of an era tomorrow. Gordon Pirie runs his last race for England in the match against Russia which starts at the White City tonight.

Thousands will go to the stadium to pay homage to a man who scorned the traditional British attitude and ran to win, win, win—and beat the world.

Fanatic . . . eccentric rebel . . . all fairly describe Pirie. Having shrugged off the orthodox approach, he is not universally popular.

During the past decade he has spanned athletics like a giant. He won seven world records, but the golden prize of an Olympic title eluded him.

The greatest chance in his six tries was at Melbourne in 1952. But first he was mercilessly crushed by Vladimir Kuts in the 10,000 metres. Then, making a courageous comeback a few days later, he was beaten into second place in the 5,000 metres.

Again Kuts was the winner, so it is fitting that Pirie's farewell should be against the mighty Russians. This time I am sure Pirie will win the 5,000 metres.

### Different

To ensure he is in perfect condition he ran a training mile in 4min. 2.6sec. at Chelsea yesterday. The majority of athletes could not attain such a time in competition and would consider it uncivilised to attempt to do so in training. That is where Pirie is different.

He has often wrongly been accused of being selfish merely because he has refused to take second best. Throughout his career he has always been a good club and team man.

Yesterday he asked me to mention those unknown athletes who through the years have shared training with him.

"Often they have sacrificed themselves to help me and I am grateful," he said.

Then came a typical biting Pirie remark: "I ran a fast mile today to prove to those who dropped me against Germany that this is the way I like to prepare."

"Tomorrow I will run to win and help Hill-Cottingham to get more points. I have no intention of attempting any records unless the race goes that way."

## PYOTR ABSENT

PYOTR BOLOTNIKOV, Olympic 10,000-metre champion, will be missing from the Russian team to meet England at the White City next Tuesday and Wednesday, writes Terry O'Connor.

This is a disappointment for Gordon Pirie, who hoped to meet Bolotnikov in the 5,000 metres. "Against such a runner it is possible the world record might have been broken," Pirie tells me.

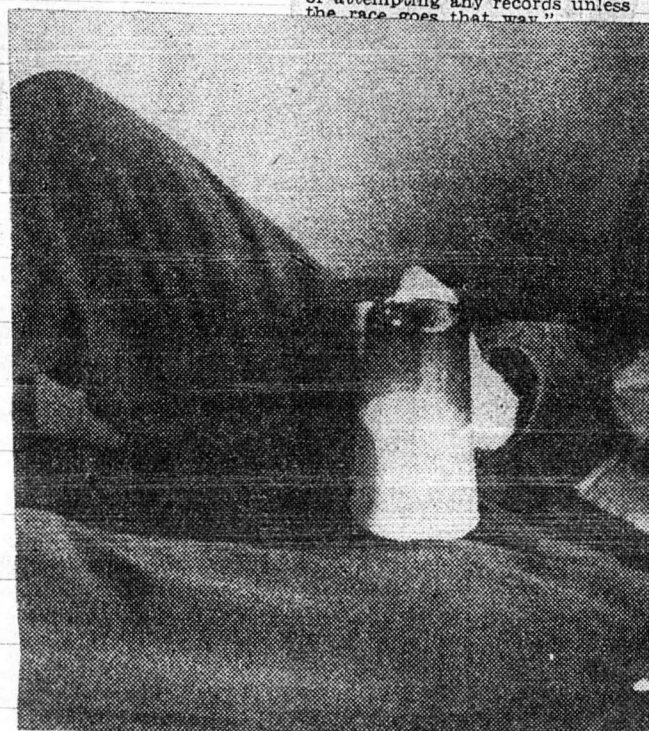
Many of the Russian Olympic champions are missing from the team. So is Grigory Taran, who broke the world 3,000 metres steeplechase record this season.

The absence of these stars supports Pirie's theory that the Russian type of training pre-

vents athletes lasting the pace of a long career.

The Russian team have been training for the past week at Riga in rainy conditions, such as they expect in a London autumn.

Their brilliant high jumper Valeri Brumel says he hopes to improve on his world record jump of 7ft. 4in. at the White City.



The last day as an athlete for Pirie began when he woke at 10 am: there were dried petals

and so to the track. Somewhere in the crowd, as he jogged alone, a girl cried. For Shirley Pirie, the girl he met on the track and married, the crowd's salute brought tears.

IT was of course Gordon Pirie's night. Nothing else mattered.

The women's world record discus throw shattered by a yard, the result of the England men's and women's matches against the Russian Federal Republic, an unsuccessful attempt on the world's one-mile relay record—none of them mattered a tuppenny damn.

Sixteen thousand fans had come into the grey bowl of the White City to pay a last tribute to Pirie.

The man who has been competing for a decade and a half and who has been at, or near, the top for nearly ten years. And Pirie, long-legged, lonely, dedicated Pirie, did not let them down.

He competed in the 5,000 metres—and he won. No other result was possible, could have been acceptable.

Then, with the thousands still resolutely

## Great win as 16,000 hearts beat in sympathy

remaining in their seats although the match was over, the results known, the presentations made, came one of the throat-tightening moments in sport.

Pirie, at his own request, ran a final lap of honour to cheers, whistles, and the all-round roar of acclamation.

It was the last Hurrah for the still lonely figure who loped round the track on which he has sweated so often, garbed in white windcheater, and blue slacks.

### EXAMPLE

Finally, the men along-side and against whom he has competed lifted him shoulder-high and carried him, still waving, across the finishing line for the last time. His last race was run.

Pirie's final victory was not only a personal triumph but a great example of team-running.

At the last moment it was announced that Brian Hill-Cottingham would not be his running mate. Instead, young John Snowdon, a Surrey surveyor and the newest recruit to the England team, was brought in.

So the veteran had to act as guide-dog to the newcomer.

Right well Pirie did it. Early on it was obvious that he was not going to try for any sensational time—that he was not interested in going out in a blaze of individual glory.

Indeed, after the first half lap, Pirie was content to hold second or third position, the sheepdog seeing that the wolves didn't get the young sheep.

### ROARS

But what a roar went up when, after seven and a half laps, Pirie took the lead, followed by Lazar Noroditskiy, but with Snowdon in third place in close pursuit.

With three laps to go, Pirie dropped back to second place again, Snowdon now trailing the field, and it was only at the bell that the old warhorse really started pawing the cinders.

Then he broke—and as

he did so the value of his tactics to his team-mate became crystal-clear.

Pirie had been the experienced Alpine guide who, with an invisible rope, had pulled the novice climber up towards the peak he had so often scaled.

Now, ironically, Pirie had to beat the man whom he had so loyally aided. For Snowdon was sticking with him. By Heaven he was!

### ROMPED

Round the last lap they romped away from the Russians—but not away from each other until just fifty yards from home.

Then Pirie, for the last time, seemed to extend those long, lean legs as though his joints were telescopic and pulled away to win by no more than four yards in 14m. 15.6s.

The time was nearly forty seconds slower than the United Kingdom national record which Pirie put up in Bergen over five years ago.

But who cared about time on such a night. A man had finished his career and finished it not only on a winning, but on a supremely generous note.

If sport shuns sentiment it becomes a matter of statistics, an ABC of muscles.

You've got to have heart—and last night 16,000 of them were beating in sympathy with Pirie's. A night to remember!

### FANTASTIC

So Pirie finished at the White City as he began—with a victory. For fourteen years ago, on a Sunday afternoon in an almost empty stadium, he won his first race there—the A.T.C. Championship mile in 4m. 42s.

But even on such a night as last night, let's not forget the fantastic Russians.

They won the men's match by 122 points to 102.



GORDON PIRIE winning the 5,000 metres from team-mate John Snowdon.





From the place of honour he waves to the crowd. A crowd who have loved him through 12 turbulent years. He has broken five world records, been six times round the world and run for England in 30 countries.



### Pirie's record round-up

THESE figures tell the record-breaking story of Gordon Pirie. Times shown are British records except where indicated.

3,000 metres: 1956, 7min. 55.6sec. (equals world); 1956, 7-52.8 (world).

10,000 metres: 1955, 29-19.

4 x 1,500 metres: 1955, 15-27.2 (world, by British relay team).

Two miles: 1952, 8-53; 1953, 8-47.4.

Three miles: 1952, 13-44.8; 1953, 13-41.8 (British and Empire); 1961, 13-16.4.

Four miles: 1953, 18-55.6.

Six miles: 1951, 29-32; 1952, 28-55.6; 1953, 28-47.4 (British and Empire); 1953, 28-19.4 (world).

## ROARING CROWD HAIL 5,000 METRES TRIUMPH

GORDON PIRIE, monarch of British athletics for a decade, said goodbye in triumph at the White City last night. Women cried. It was that sort of evening, charged with emotion as 20,000 spectators exploded exultantly as Pirie, running for the last time in English colours, toyed with his Russian opponents.

By  
**TERRY O'CONNOR**

Although the Russians won the men's match by 20 points and their mighty Olympic shot-putt champion, Tamara Press, set a world record in the discus, it was Pirie's evening.

A backstage row between the organisers and TV officials meant that Pirie did not run his lap of honour until an hour after winning the 5,000 metres. But most of the crowd waited to pay homage to a great runner.

Another thunderous cheer rolled over the stadium as Pirie, in a blue and white track suit, was caught by four probing searchlights.

Pirie's memory went back to that day 18 years ago when, as a skinny A.T.C. cadet of 12, he first ran on this track. Since then he has blazed an athletic career that has brought him world fame.

### The master

The race itself seemed almost incidental—just another act in the fantastic Pirie career. And he played his part like an Old Vic actor.

At first he led, but for most of the race he allowed the swarthy Lazar Naroditskiy to set the pace.

Occasionally those long legs would quicken and he would go in front, as if to remind the Russians he was master. Just before the bell tolled—the last time Pirie would hear that stirring sound as a competitor—the English champion moved

into the lead, completely in command.

Only the little known John Snowden matched his pace, and the crowd sighed when he had the audacity to challenge Pirie for the lead.

But Pirie was in no mood to be overshadowed. The famous stride quickened and there awaiting him at the end was the familiar tape and photographers' flashbulbs.

All the quarrels of the past were forgotten. Pirie was no longer the rebel, only the hero. I have seen him run scores of times all over the world. Often he has failed, but he has always come back to fight again.

### Brilliant

"I felt emotionally disturbed all day," Pirie told me, "what a pity I am too strong to cry like the others."



Pirie's farewell... a lap of honour in a blaze of light



THE lung-bursting drama is over. His race is won. And Gordon Pirie sinks into the arms of his wife Shirley for a victory hug.

He had the 20,000 crowd at the White City on its feet and roaring last night as he neared the end of the 5,000-metres race against the Russians.

It was a spectacular race—and a spectacular entry into retirement for Pirie.

For as he broke the tape just ahead of John Snowden, with two well-beaten Russians bringing up the rear, he ended his 20-year athletics career.

And Pirie had been running with a heavy cold.

After the race he stood alone on the victory rostrum in front of the main stand. For two minutes the spotlight held him.

A fitting farewell for Gordon



# PIRIE, THE PRO

## First race in Spanish bullring

By GORDON PIRIE

(In an interview with Sydney Halls)

I AM turning professional. I shall have my first race in a bullring in San Sebastian, Spain, on October 29. And I will be paid £500 for it.

This may come as a shock to many people in athletics, after my farewell race at the White City on Wednesday, but I can reveal now that this was only a farewell to the sham world of amateurism.

I am looking forward to running for cash. If necessary I think I can keep on for another five years.

And I am hoping to introduce a professional athletic circus on the lines of the Jack Kramer organisation in tennis.

I know there are tremendous obstacles to be overcome if I am to succeed in this ambition. But I am determined to try—and hope to stage a meeting at the White City, London, some time in the future.

But back to my first race in Spain next month.

### Tremendous

I am told there may be betting on the laps of the race—a 10,000-metres event against a Spaniard called Juan Cruz Aspiroz. That will be about 100 times round the bullring.

It will be a pursuit race. We will start on opposite sides of the track, and I will give Aspiroz about 100 metres start.

This new career of mine must delay my return to New Zealand, but it's going to give me a tremendous new interest in the sport.

Yes, I believe that the professional track could have a tremendous future. I gave 10 years of my life to the amateur sport, and it gave me thrills, enjoyment and lots of friends all over the world.

But nothing can compensate for the financial loss of those 10 years. Now I am out for all I can get.

I intend to get in touch with top-class athletes and interest them in my scheme. The public will want to see the best.

As I said before, it is going to be difficult—but believe me, I will be fighting for its success.

### Spectacular

In Gothenburg last week Eddie Ahlquist, the business manager of Ingemar Johansson, the former world boxing champion, told me he plans to run spectacular sporting shows, and

## Pirie may be told to return trophy

By TERRY O'CONNOR

GORDON PIRIE might be asked to return the trophy he was awarded for winning the A.A.A. three-mile title, in view of his public statement yesterday that he received about £1,000 for running, while an amateur, in Sweden this summer.

Amateur Athletic Association officials are to discuss Pirie's statements and will be forced to take action if they believe he was a professional when he competed in the A.A.A. championships.

"We could ask Pirie to meet us, but there could be no compulsion because he has now declared himself a professional," Ernest Clynes, secretary of the A.A.A., told me yesterday.

"If we receive evidence that Pirie is not eligible to compete in our championships, which are open only to amateurs, it will be a very difficult problem."

### Confused

British officials are confused. Last month, in Dortmund, Pirie denied he had received money for competing in Sweden.

"Now an article to the contrary has appeared under his name," Jack Crump, secretary of the British Athletic Board, said last night. "What do we believe?"

The International Federation will be forced to act because Pirie accuses Swedish athletic promoters of tempting him with cash offers to run. The Swedes will be asked to inquire into this and take action against any promoters or officials who are guilty.

Sweden have yet to give a proper answer to the federation on the question of payments to the suspended Dan Waern.

British Athletics Board secretary Jack Crump said: "If that's what Pirie wants to do—well good luck to him. We shall not take any action against him."

"Good luck to anybody who wants to run professionally. We have a tough enough job making amateur athletics pay. I can assure you we are not worried about losing athletes to the professionals."

"However many do change over—we have plenty more to replace them," he added.

In 1958 world record miler Herb Elliott turned down an £89,000 offer from an American showman to turn professional.

## AT SOCCER MATCH

From FRANK ROSTON

BARCELONA, Friday.—Gordon Pirie plans to make his debut as a professional athlete in Barcelona on Sunday.

He will race 3,000 metres for a £100 fee against two Spanish Olympic runners, Tomas Barris and Mario Molins, who will each cover 1,500 metres.

The race is scheduled as a half-time attraction at the Barcelona-Betis soccer match. It will be run on the cinder track round the pitch in Barcelona's magnificent stadium.

The Soccer match has already been put back from the afternoon to an evening, floodlit, kick-off so as not to clash with the Jack

Kramer Cup professional tennis tournament.

There is only one snag. Officials of the club will not be notified until tomorrow morning by the National Olympic Committee in Madrid whether the amateurs will be permitted to compete against professor Pirie.

★

But Pirie told me: "Sunday's attempt by the Barcelona club is to give the football public a taste for athletics so I don't see there should be any complications about my opponents being amateurs."

Pirie has already contracted to run against two Spanish opponents in San Sebastian bullring on October 29.



"Remember, Sebastian, when Senor Pirie beats you, he's got to cut off your ears . . . for £500 the crowd wants to see some blood!"

GORDON PIRIE was banned at the last minute today from competing in a 3,000 metres race against two Spanish amateurs—because he COULD NOT prove he is now a professional!

Angry Pirie stormed: "The Spaniards want a written document from England certifying that I am now a professional. They can't get it."

"What a farce! This must be one of the biggest jokes of all time."

Today's race—planned for the interval of the Barcelona-Real Betis (Seville) Soccer match—was called off when the Spanish National Sports Association in Madrid phoned officials here.

### IN DANGER

The association reported that Pirie had no clearance papers from England's Amateur Athletic Association.

Pirie's planned 3,000-metre race against two Spaniards in the bullring at San Sebastian on October 29 is also in jeopardy.

The ruffled English A.A.A. and the International Federation, which certainly bans Pirie from amateur competitions, are not likely to oblige with the necessary certificate.

FOOTNOTE: Ironically, Pirie's fee

## PIRIE BANNED IN SPAIN



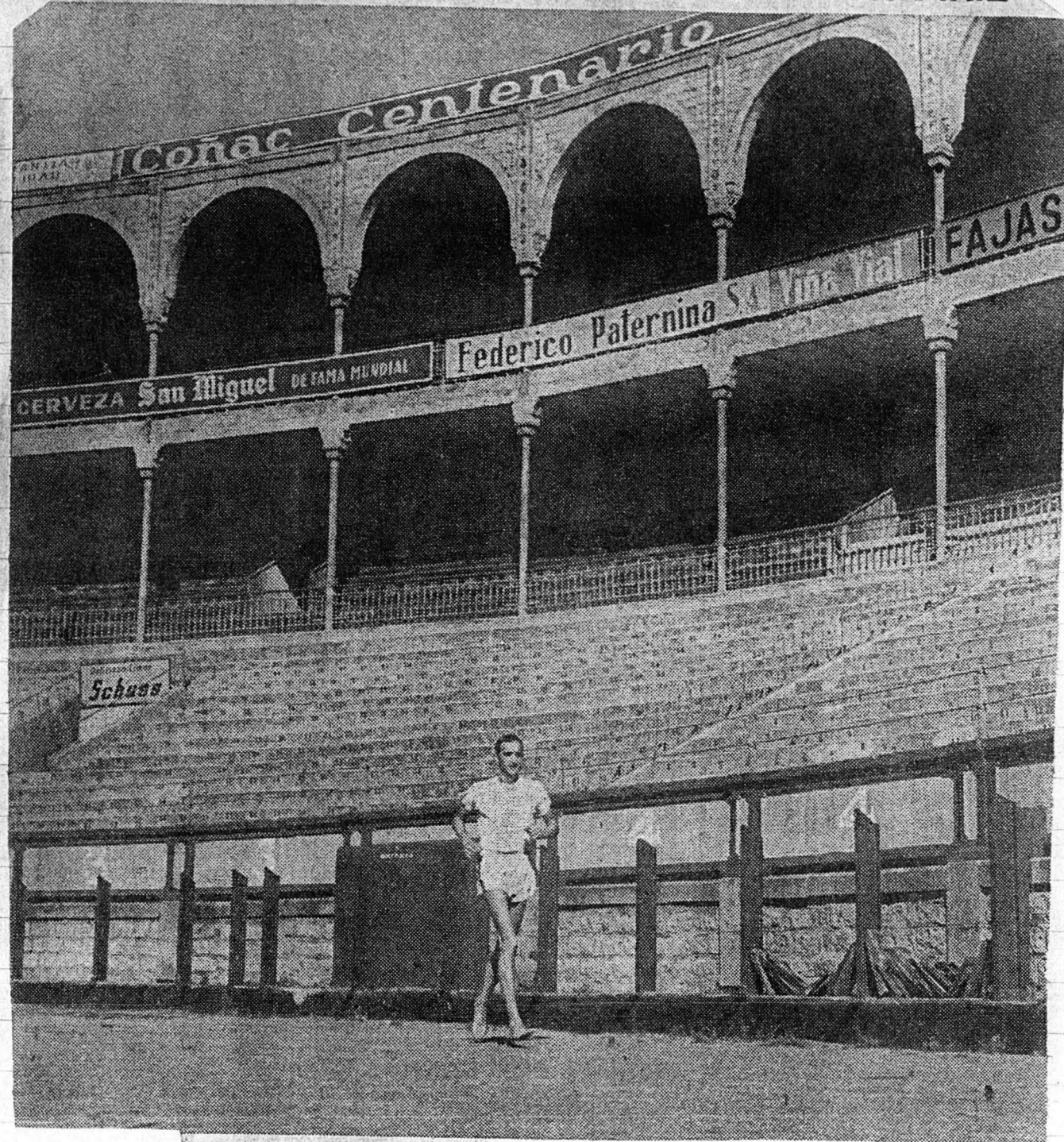
● Stop the sham, end the hypocrisy, give up the pretence that big-time athletics is still an amateur sport, pleads Gordon Pirie.

● World record-breaker Gordon has the courage to admit frankly that he has been making money from his running.

● Now, by his fearless exposures of "fiddling" and phoney payments, he wants



ONLY SUN . . . SAND . . . SILENCE . . . FOR PIRIE



A lone, familiar figure runs on. But now there is only sun and sand and silence. As yet there are no "Olés" of approval.

For the man is Gordon Pirie. And he plans to run man-against-men in an arena dedicated to seeing its duels end in death—the death of a man or a bull.

Here, where Belmonte and Ordoñez have fought for kings' ransoms, Pirie practises for a £500 relay race against Spain's Chiquito de Arruiz and Aldaz. Each will run 5,000 metres . . . Pirie 10,000 metres.

The place: the San Sebastian bullring. The distance: 10,000 metres. The date: October 29.

# Beaten . . . but still £1,000 richer

SAN SEBASTIAN, Sunday.

**A**T high noon here today El Pirie made his professional debut. He chased 100 times round the local bullring, was beaten by 110 yards, collected six blisters, a badly-bruised big toe nail, a dizzy head . . . and a thousand pounds.

I lost 100 pesetas (about 12 shillings) on the betting on the race . . . and a load of treasured memories of a once great runner. El Pirie, known in more sane days as Gordon Pirie, insists that his 10,000-metre duel against two local runners, Chiquito de Arruiz and Manuel Aldaz, who each ran 5,000 metres, was no joke.

The sport-loving Basques—6,000 of whom paid from 5s. to 15s. and came from miles around to see the race—agreed with him.

But I will always remember this as the tragi-comedy day that Gordon Pirie sold himself for money.

A bullring is for bulls. It is not the arena for a respected, renowned athlete, a world record holder, who once ranked with and raced against Zatopek, Bannister, Chataway, Kuts and Elliott.

Pirie is no Manolette in a bullring. Instead, he is reduced to the same exhibitionist sub-level as a greyhound racing against a cheetah, of an ex-champ taking on allcomers in a circus boxing booth.

## A day to forget

The only "athletic" fact I will record from this spectacle is that Gordon Pirie Limited (to give him his full commercial title) clocked 31 minutes 22.4 seconds, a better time than either of his rivals had ever achieved.

For the rest this was a day of comedy or sadness, depending on which way you looked at it. And definitely a day to forget.

It began at 9 a.m. when Pirie, his wife Shirley and new boxer puppy Pancho set off in their new red Volkswagen to breakfast down-town at a cafe owned by one of Pirie's backers.

Shirley just sipped coffee while G. P. Ltd. waded into oats, steak and yoghurt, rounded off with two tiny red vitamin pills. Then back to the hotel for a rest.

At 11.30 Shirley, Pancho and Pirie arrived at the bullring which has housed some of the most ferocious bulls and some of the world's great matadors.

## Dirt and gravel

The sand of the ring was covered by a layer of dirt and gravel. "Something like Tooting Bec at its worst," said Pirie.

My Press box was the protection barrier used by Picadors. Alongside me sat journalists from all over Europe with television cameramen from home and France.

Around me dashed bookmakers shouting the odds and taking bets. At the outset Pirie was quoted at 5-2—I put 100 pesetas on his nose.

By the start the betting was even. After 58 laps it was 2-1 against the Englishman. After 75 laps you could get 5-1. After 85 laps, 15-1.

Pirie and his two rivals, tall, square-shouldered Chiquito, a former shepherd from the surrounding hills, and slight, tiny Manuel, an ex-factory worker, limbered up round the track.

Then the meeting began with a Franciscan friar saying noon-day prayers. A minute later the race was on.

Pirie started at one side of the track, diametrically opposite from Chiquito. After 28 laps of the tight circuit Pirie led by 20 yards.

## Level

After 48 laps they were level again. On the 50th, the change-over lap, Chiquito led by four yards.

On Manuel's second lap, Pirie's 52nd, the Spaniard led by 25 yards. After 75 laps Pirie trailed by 75 yards.

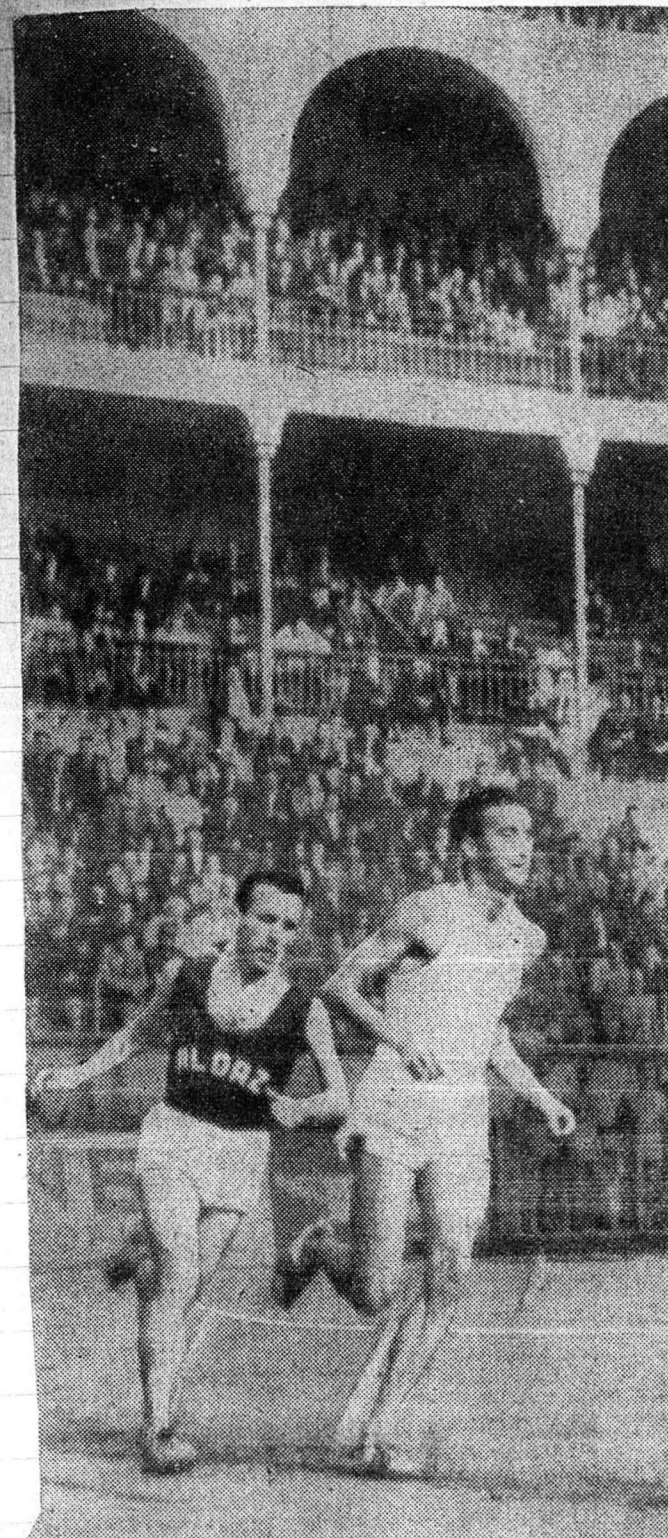
The race was over. The humiliating spectacle remained that Pirie was a beaten, even if richer, man.

Afterwards I asked him: "Do you consider this a serious athletic test?"

He replied: "Of course it was. They are both good runners and their times have no relation to what they may be able to do on a proper track."

Gordon still believes in himself. He still believes in money.

But this whole business has reduced him in my eyes from a



Those inexhaustible feet pad-pad round the bull-ring. It's Gordon Pirie, late world champion, now paid performer having his first professional race in Spain.



# Wood follows Pirie

**K**EN WOOD, four-minute miler from Sheffield, has decided, like Gordon Pirie, to turn professional. And he forecasts that within eight months not only will there be professional athletics at first-class football grounds, but also that there will be a complete break-away from officialdom by Britain's top athletes. Wood says he is fed up with

being kicked about by officials and getting nothing in payment for years of hard work. "I am working out a programme for a circuit of professional races, probably starting with a tour of the Scottish meetings," he said yesterday. "There will be more professional races on the Continent, and Laszlo Tabori and Dan Waern have already said they are keen on the idea."



"I know!—I KNOW!—I've already turned his picture face to the wall—"

**H**OW would you feel, supposing you're a greyhound racing fan, if during the evening the loudspeakers announced: "Trap 1, Gordon Pirie, Trap 2 . . ." The idea isn't as fantastic as it seems.

Yesterday, in the elegant boardroom at the Greyhound Racing Association's headquarters high above London's Berkeley-square, Pirie was given a glittering silver salver, inscribed with some of the outstanding triumphs he scored at his "favourite" track, London's White City.

The top brass of the G.R.A. was there, but some of the contributors to the salver were the comparatively humble characters who have marked out the tracks and made the technical arrangements for so many of the great athletics meetings in which Pirie has starred.

After the presentation, by managing director P. B. Laddie Lucas, wartime fighter ace, ex-M.P. and former Walker Cup captain, I tackled him about the possibility of Pirie and other athletes now contemplating professionalism competing at a greyhound meeting at London's White City and perhaps at other G.R.A. tracks.

## LEGAL SNAGS

There are apparently certain legal snags. Obviously there would be betting on a race of this kind but it would not, I was told, be permissible to use the Tote.

Moreover, every greyhound track is allowed to put on only a certain number of races a year, which would mean that, if you had a professional athletics race, you would probably have to cut out one dog race.

Both these snags could probably be overcome, but there is an additional one, that no other sporting events are supposed to be held during a greyhound meeting.

This, too, I suppose could be circumvented by having the humans run either before or after the meeting.

Pirie told me that he had just received a letter from Ken Wood, who has also decided to turn pro.

But he was understandably cagey in discussing the reaction he has had from the twenty top athletes whom he has contacted about the possibility of joining a travelling troupe.

## DIZZY IN SPAIN

About his experience in San Sebastian, where he ran in a bull ring, he spoke with complete candour.

At the end of a hundred laps of the 100 metres track, he admitted that he was slightly dizzy. Furthermore, he aggravated a leg injury and has since been having hospital treatment for a pulled muscle.

Nevertheless he is thinking of returning to Spain for another of these races, known as "korrikolaris," which have been popular in the Basque region since the 1890s.

In fact, Miguel Aldaz, the second of the two runners who beat Pirie at San Sebastian, has challenged him to a £800 race on any surface the Englishman chooses.

Pirie put forward one suggestion which certainly did make sense to me.

He pointed out how ideal this type of running, and indeed all professional athletics, could be if staged on an indoor track at Wembley where, of course, amateur athletics was highly successful before the last war.

The only snag, of course, would be that—as I understand the Betting Act of 1934—you would not have any wagering in an indoor arena.

# Pirie waiting—for money

By BILL WARD

**G**ORDON PIRIE has a new battle with athletics officialdom—over money, of course.

Pirie, whose revelations about under-the-counter payments in a newspaper series shocked the Amateur Athletics Association, told me yesterday:

"I haven't received a penny in expenses from the AAA for my 'farewell' race against Russia at White City in September.

"I applied for £60, my return air fare from Sweden, on their normal expenses claim form. Usually, they pay out on the spot, but I haven't had a cent."

The AAA's administrative

# PIRIE LOOKS BACK ON HIS 10-YEAR FIREWORKS SHOW

**G**ORDON PIRIE is a great athlete. He has set world records, beaten the world's greatest athletes and been somewhere near the top for 10 years. How many boys he has inspired to take up athletics will never be known, but the total must be vast in many parts of the world, writes James Coote.

Pirie is not great because of his natural talent, but because he has had to fight far harder than the next man to reap his rewards. His training schedule alone is blood curdling. Such a man must be purely individualistic, so his clashes with authority have never come as a surprise.

As a sincere account of British and Continental athletics over the last 10 years, his book, *Running Wild* (W. H. Allen, 21s.), published to-day, could not be bettered. It reads like Pirie. The statistical details are comprehensive and the production is good.

The races you want to know about are explained well and the fireworks leap out at you every few pages. What more could you want from an autobiography?

Pirie entered amateur athletics not, as others have done in their spare time. To him athletics came first and a job second. In that respect he is lucky. Who of us is able to devote 10 years to the sport we love? But nowhere in his book does he explain how for much of his career on the track he was able to run without infringing IAAF rules.

## CRACK AT PRESS Restrained Reprisal

Why, for instance did Rootes lend him a car for his wedding? Was it the "old pals act," which Pirie so much abhorred, or was it because Rootes knew that Pirie would be filmed in one of their vehicles? Why did the Glaxo publicity man meet Pirie and his wife in New Zealand?

As is laid down in the manual for sportsmen turned authors, he has a good crack at the Press, who have in turn praised, ignored or severely criticised him throughout. Quite frankly, I think he has been extremely restrained in his remarks about newspapers, because in 10 years of ups and downs some extremely harsh things have been written about him.

Of course he dislikes the old school tie. Perhaps he is envious of Brasher's gold medal, Bannister's sub-four minute mile and Chataway's greatly acclaimed world record victory over Kuts. These men are to Pirie the epitome of the old school tie, the golden-haired boys for whom any exception can be made, while the artisan plods his weary way round the training track.

The officials come in for their share of the whacking. But has Pirie ever reflected how difficult it must have

# AAA RULE OUT PIRIE VICTORY

By JAMES COOTE

**W**HEN Gordon Pirie won the 5,000 metres for England against the Russian Federal Republic on Sept. 20 he had already run one race for a "profitable £50" as he said in a newspaper article on Oct. 1.

As a result the general committee of the AAA reached on Saturday, the momentous decision by declaring that Pirie was already ineligible when he ran and that the race and match result will be amended.

Pirie was asked to give some form of explanation about the £50 he mentions in the article but as he failed to give any satisfactory reason the general committee acted "on the facts," said AAA secretary Mr. Ernest Clynes.

A final decision on Pirie's expenses for the match have still to be decided but I feel that they must eventually be paid even if he was not an amateur in the eyes of the AAA, British Board or the International Federation.

## COUNTER CLAIM

### 10 Per Cent. of the Gate

After all if the authorities decided not to pay his expenses then he should counter-claim for entrance fees collected from the 10 per cent. of the spectators who came to the meeting solely to bid him farewell.

The AAA must have been satisfied that there was nothing they could pin on Pirie before July 21. On that day he set a United Kingdom three mile record of 13min 16.4sec when running against the United States, since improved by Bruce Tulloh, which will not be erased from the records book.

Shortly after this he left for Scandinavia, a period of Pirie's athletics career viewed with grave mistrust by many leading athletics administrators.

Pirie is also allowed to keep his Southern and AAA three-mile titles he won on June 24 and July 15.

# AAA WON'T PAY PIRIE EXPENSES

**G**ORDON PIRIE, who claimed £60 expenses for running for Britain against Russia at White City, will not get the money and his 5,000 metres victory will be deleted from the records on the grounds of professionalism, writes Bob Trevor. Phil Gale, AAA hon treasurer, states: "If he was ineligible to run he is also ineligible to receive expenses." The £60 represents air fares from Sweden.



Pirie told me at the time: "I haven't had a penny. I applied for my return fare in the usual way. Normally they pay out at once—but not this time."

The AAA stated yesterday they had found "on the facts" Pirie was ineligible for the match. He turned professional two days after his appearance against the Russians.

They had little option in reaching these conclusions after Pirie's newspaper disclosures.



## Pirie hits out at 'vultures'

BARCELONA, Thursday.

GORDON PIRIE, who has his second race in the San Sebastian bull ring on Sunday, today hit back at his British critics.

Said Pirie: "The vultures have been picking at me for years and have had all the flesh off my bones. Now I'm not concerned any more."

And Pirie said that people who sneer about his "bull-ring stunts" did not realise that the contests were an old Basque sporting tradition.

Spanish bookies had been offering even money against Pirie beating Chiquito de Arruiz over 10,000 metres on Sunday.

But the odds lengthened to 5-4 against Pirie today when it was learned that the Spaniard, who will have a start of 125 metres (about 1½ laps), has been daily improving his times for the distance.

Chiquito and Miguel Aldaz beat Pirie in a 10,000 metres race in the same bull ring in October.

But Pirie, who arrived in San Sebastian today after a week's secret training in Barcelona, said he didn't intend to do any training in the ring, except to "trot around once or twice."

## Pirie in bull-ring again—for £1,000

ATHLETICS By SYDNEY HULLS

GORDON PIRIE, the professional, runs for £1,000 on Christmas Eve. He takes to the bull-ring again for the second race in his paid career in a 10,000-metres event at either San Sebastian or Tolosa.

An excited Pirie told me yesterday from his German headquarters, where he is training and learning to ski with his wife.

"This will be a real race. I'm giving Chiquito de Arruiz about 135 yards start."

"It's a pretty severe handicap. It means I shall have to pass him twice on the 100-metre circular track if I am to win."

"I think I can do it. I'm much fitter this time than for my first professional race."

That debut was the October day the punters wept. Pirie started off as an even-money shot and finished up any price you liked to name—and no takers.

I doubted very much whether Pirie would be asked back again—at least not on the same terms.

### 3,500 MORE

"What?" mocks Pirie. "Not be asked back again! Do you realise that I drew 6,874 paying spectators to the San Sebastian bull-ring? That is 3,500 more than any other runner has ever attracted there."

"Since then I've turned down two offers of £500 to race in Spain. My present policy is £1,000 a race or no Pirie."

So here is the world record-breaker preparing to leave for Spain again to run on precisely the same terms as his first professional race.

He says: "I have been experimenting with a built-up left shoe to counter the strain of running to the left for 100 turns of the 100-metre circle."

## Pirie paces the pigs



GORDON PIRIE, beaten in his two big-money professional races in Spain, is training on a Cornish pig-farm in an attempt to win his third bull-ring prize, run at Pamplona, on April 22.

Pirie has pounded out a daily race routine past 200 pigs, across the fields and along the deserted snow-bound roads near Penryn.

★

Arthur Cole, Pirie's agent who owns the farm, hit upon the idea of sending galloping Gordon to Cornwall after his New Year's Eve flop against Chiquito de Arruiz at Tolosa.

He reasoned the bracing Cornish air and loneliness of the country would give Pirie a good opportunity to get back to peak form.

## Pirie on wheels

BACK in England after his fruitless visit to Spain (his Easter bullring engagement was cancelled) Gordon Pirie appeared at Hurlingham Park last Sunday riding a bicycle. The holder of the world 3,000 metres record refrained from joining his friends in training on the grounds that he was preparing for a treadmill experiment to test his cardio-respiratory system.

Asked for details he replied: "Hush," remounted his steed and made off in the direction of Coulsdon.



Gordon Pirie

The famous athlete answers questions about himself in Frankly Speaking at 8.15

8.15

### FRANKLY SPEAKING

Gordon Pirie

answers questions about himself

from Peter Wilson and Norris McWhirter  
BBC recording

## Pirie flops again—beaten by the 'bull-ring' ace

GORDON PIRIE flopped again. He lost his second professional race at Tolosa, North-Western Spain, yesterday. And the old master of the world's cinder tracks started off as a five to two on favourite.

But even the aid of a built-up left shoe to counteract the strain of running in a circle for 100 laps, could not save Pirie. He finished 45 yards behind bull-ring racing ace Chiquito de Arruiz at the end of the 10,000 metre two-man competition.

Arruiz won in 31min. 49.4sec., helped by a 130-yard handicap start. Pirie's time was 31min. 58sec. Gordon, beaten in his first professional race at San Sebastian two months ago, said: "I gave De Arruiz 25 to 30 yards too much. But I'm staying in Spain for more races."

## £600 for beaten Pirie

TOLOSA, Spain, Sunday  
GORDON PIRIE was beaten here today in his second race as a professional.

He gave Chiquito de Arruiz 125 metres start in 10,000 metres round the local bull-ring, and finished about 45 yards behind the Spaniard.

Pirie's time: 31min. 58sec. Pirie's pay: about £600.

Pirie, 5 to 2 on favourite in heavy betting before the race, cut down De Arruiz's start lap by lap, but by the middle of the event odds had swung right the other way.

"It was a very hard race," said Pirie.

"Running in a bull-ring requires a special technique, which Chiquito undoubtedly has mastered."

## QUOTE

BY

GORDON PIRIE

ABOUT

BRUCE TULLOH

LITTLE Bruce Tulloh, the dynamic, barefoot midget, shattered the world's finest distance champions on the blood-red track of the Army Stadium in Belgrade on Saturday.

Forget the time. Tulloh will bring us the world record later.

Remember that sprint finish—an incredible 750 yards, fabulous, incredible, and impossible—except for Tulloh.

Those last yards were excruciating, agonising torture for that frail body.

But helped by the thrill of ultimate triumph, Bruce staggered through the tape, savoured the delirious moment of truth, then lay his shattered body on the green turf bordering the

track. No doubt thanking God for his victory.

Yet this was no ordinary moment of truth.

The real story is that guts, sacrifice, sweat and tears beat the brawn and bludgeoning that is Iron Curtain sport, and that Britain is in the lead in distance running.

We can win against any nation in a team race of six runners. Take the Bolotnikovs and the Halbergs away from the other countries, and they are second-rate by comparison.

We can raise our glasses and hoist the Union Jack today—thanks to barefoot Bruce, and the most fabulous 5,000 metres victory I have ever seen.

Pirie



## kidnaps



## Hogan

By HARRY LANGTON

GORDON PIRIE, swarthy, pink-shirted, and professional as a pound note, made a brief reappearance on an English running track during the Middlesex championships at Hurlingham.

It was an unexpected, meteoric, rather puzzling performance—similar to some of his efforts as an amateur.

It lasted about 10 seconds, the time it took him to dash from the grandstand and reach Irishman Jim Hogan, winner of the Middlesex three miles.

Hogan had just won his race, one of Pirie's specialities, in a record-breaking 13min. 45.6sec. And Pirie, without a glance at those talking to Hogan, grasped the Irishman firmly by the elbow and took him 20 yards away for a private chat.

If Pirie, ever the showman, had wanted the crowd and officials agog, they were agog.

### The questions

What was this? Was Jim Hogan, the new barefoot wonder of the track, about to be whisked away by impresario Pirie to run with him among the bulls of Spain? Talk of telephone calls could be faintly heard. "What's your number?" "I haven't got one." Oh dear, stumbling block.

"You can ring my wife," Pirie wrote down the number. "I'll see you there, then." See him where—Barcelona? "Chiswick." That's a bit of a comedown.

A few more whispers. Hogan looked puzzled. Pirie disappeared as if Vladimir Kuts was after him.

I put the question to Hogan: "Are you going to turn professional?" Hogan: "No, no—I wouldn't dream of it."

Had Pirie invited him to turn professional? Hogan: "Oh, no—nothing like that." He'd known Pirie in the past, trained with him.

Would Pirie be helping him in training? "Oh, no."

Hogan peeled the tape from toes which had just twinkled round the track leaving the rest of the field standing in their spikes. "My ambition is the European Games, running for Ireland."

● FAME NOTE, Metcalfe strode back to the dressing-room after his great treble with Gordon Pirie, now a cub athletics reporter, loping beside him, notebook and ball-point in hand.

As this odd interview-on-the-march passed me, a cynical, Oxford-accented voice asked: "I say, John—who's that with Adrian Metcalfe?"

That's how it is when a new star is born, though this one's more like a sun.





On the far right Gordon Pirie starts off in the professional 2 miles at Jedburgh. The runners behind him are in fact just leaving their handicap marks, almost a lap ahead. Pirie could not catch them.

#### JEDBURGH BORDER GAMES

In spite of the lack of sunshine—it was a dull, cold day—over 4000 attended the Annual Border Games at Riverside, this being 500 more than in 1961. Gordon Pirie, making his debut as a professional runner in Britain, would attract many, but it was 27-years-old David Walker, an Edinburgh accountant who thrilled the crowd with his great speed as he thrust from the back mark of 4 yards to win the £200 120 yards sprint and then, ten minutes later, do it again as he won the British Professional 120 yards Championship in 11.70 secs.

Pirie, on the other hand, did not impress. In a specially arranged invitation mile event, where, from scratch, he was set to give the present British One Mile champion, J. Tinnion of Dearham, 35 yards, and the strong running Brotherstone of Gordon, 40 yards, he made no impression. Brotherstone won in 4 mins. 10.5 secs., while Pirie was fourth in 4 mins. 18.75 secs.

In the Two Miles event Pirie ran without making any impact on the large field and never overtook a runner who finished. After the racing he said he could not get any spark into his running and was surprised at the high standard at the Games. Quite properly, Walker was awarded the medal for the most meritorious performance in the afternoon.

#### No highland fling for Pirie

GORDON PIRIE, former Olympic champion, failed in his first professional appearance in Scotland yesterday. He was beaten in both the mile and two mile events at Jedburgh Border Games.

He delighted the crowd with some spectacular limbering-up exercises, and was even favourite with the bookmakers, but he was asked to do too much by the handicapper.

In a specially framed mile he had to give up to 45 yards to top men in professional circles, and made no show.

In the two miles Pirie, giving starts up to 310 yards, was boxed in among the runners off the long marks and had no one to pace him properly. He was beaten by more than 100 yards.

Gordon Pirie did not please a great many people by his running and yet it is difficult to know what the crowd expected. In the first place, one would expect the edge to have gone off his racing, certainly in comparison with his amateur days when he would be at it every day. As it was, his time of 4 minutes 18 seconds was quite a good time. Had all the runners gone from scratch, it might have been a better race.

## AT KESWICK

### 4 Mins. 7.8 Secs. Not Fast Enough to Beat Handicap

#### Over 10,000 People at Bank Holiday Event

FORMER amateur four-minute miler Gordon Pirie took second place to a comparatively unknown youngster at Keswick's annual August Monday sports meeting when he attempted to crack Bathgate runner Michael Glen's 4 mins. 7 secs. British professional mile record.

Over 10,000 people watched the race, the expected highlight of the afternoon, and Pirie's performance—and that of 19-year-old Alan Moody who beat him—added spice to an already exciting afternoon in which the handicapping of Mr. W. Twentyman, Workington, produced some extremely close finishes.

Pirie's first appearance of the afternoon in the half-mile was more of a "limbering up" and he failed to qualify for the final after running off scratch in his heat which was won by J. Marrs, Carlisle, off 55 yards.

In the mile event Pirie was again off scratch in company with J. Tinnion (Dearham), J. Brotherston and Glen. In the second lap he fought off a challenge from Tinnion, left the back markers and running strongly, pushed through the field. He was unable however, to overhaul Moody, who started off 85 yards, and the Scotsman, running extremely well, beat him to the post by 10 yards. Pirie's time was 4 min. 7.8 sec.

Afterwards Pirie commented: "This is only my second race of the season and I was quite pleased with my performance. Normally I would have run six races by this time. He commented that the track, which being grass and rather soft, did not provide much "lift," could make 5 seconds difference in a mile and added "I think that given the right conditions, Tinnion could run a four minute mile in a scratch race."

Pirie also commented on the general atmosphere of the event and the high standard of sportsmanship among the runners against whom he competed.



The camera catches the long-striding action of Gordon Pirie as he tears past in the mile in which he just failed to catch the Scottish runner, A. S. Moody, who had a start of 85 yards

## KESWICK AUGUST MONDAY SPORTS

IN THE KESWICK FITZ PARK, ON MONDAY, 6th AUGUST.

Commencing at 1-30 p.m.

£500 IN PRIZES AND CHALLENGE CUPS.

**CYCLING:** Quarter Mile Scratch, Half Mile, Mile and 3 Mile Handicaps.

**FOOTRACING:** 100 yards, 220 yards, Quarter Mile, Half Mile and Mile Handicaps.

**FELL RACING:** Senior and Junior.

**WRESTLING:** 10½ Stone, 12 Stone, and All Weights. Recognised Costume Only. Boys' 100 Yards Handicap.

The competitors will include the world famous athlete, **GORDON PIRIE.**

MUSIC BY DEARHAM UNITED MINERS' WELFARE BAND.

Stalls on Field, £2 each. Catering, Ice Cream and Mineral Rights Reserved. :: No Gambling.



An enthusiastic supporter accompanies A. S. Moody, of Galashiels, over the line when he beat Gordon Pirie in the mile at Keswick Sports on Monday.



# It'll be tough as the team's drill sergeant

From IAN WOOLDRIDGE

Aboard S.S. Canberra in the Indian Ocean, Sunday.

**GORDON PIRIE**, bound for Australia to give television commentaries on the Empire Games, has accepted an official M.C.C. invitation to put England's cricketers through a tough physical training course in the nine days before we dock at Fremantle.

Pirie, one of Britain's greatest athletes and now a professional, will ask no fee for being in total charge one hour per night.

He has the blessing of skipper Dexter, assistant manager Bedser and 60-year-old masseur Sam Cowan.

Cowan said: "This was to have been my job, but I am delighted a young man of Pirie's tremendous ability is prepared to step in."

Dexter got the idea as soon as he discovered that Pirie was on board in the tourist class. He made the suggestion at a cocktail party last night, but got no definite answer.

Today, on Dexter's behalf, I repeated the invitation and Pirie said: "I thought he was joking. I would be delighted to help, provided they are prepared for it to be tough."

## Dexter demands

"I must step it up gradually because I suspect cricketers have no idea what training really means."

Dexter revealed today that he has already mildly reprimanded two players for staying in bed instead of appearing at breakfast. He said: "I don't want to have to lay down the law, but I expect all players to get to bed at a reasonable hour and to start the day with a proper breakfast."



**GORDON PIRIE**... he will run the daily physical training.



**FRED** (Fearsome) **TRUEMAN**, like his M.C.C. colleagues aboard the Australia-bound s.s. Canberra, is getting fit the Gordon (Puff-puff) Pirie way. Pirie holds a daily programme of exercises as rigorous as those that made him the iron-man of

the world's athletics tracks. England's cricketers are finding them tough. And here Gordon (Fearsome) Pirie pats a few unnecessary inches around the middle of Fred (Puff-puff) Trueman. The message is plain: "More work, yet, Fred, before you start hurling those thunderbolts at the Aussies."

# Leave it to the cricketers, Pirie

**T**RUST Gordon Pirie, the Thin Man of Athletics, to upset the M.C.C.'s fat cricketers. Why is it Gordon so often departs with a sour note? His farewell gesture to amateur athletics was to smear the sport he had enjoyed and to destroy much of the adulation of his many fans.

Gordon was invited to help the M.C.C. players to get fit aboard the s.s. Canberra. Three days after the party disembarked at Perth, Pirie told Australian reporters that some of our cricketers are unfit and paunchy.

"Some of them have the old-fashioned idea that physical fitness has nothing to do with cricket and think it better to lean against the bar."

Pirie is a physical fitness fanatic. That's okay for Gordon if he likes it, but I doubt if many of our cricketers would benefit by adopting the runner's punishing training schedule.

And it doesn't follow that fat men can't play cricket.

The late-lamented Patsy Hendren was among the greatest batsmen of his day, despite a paunch.

## The build

Maurice Leyland and Leslie Ames were well covered, too.

Colin Cowdrey isn't a thin man, but what a great fielder he is.

Pirie seems to forget that he is built like a greyhound. Other sportsmen are built like St. Bernards or bull-dogs or even dachshunds!

As for our cricketers taking a drink aboard ship, well, what's wrong with that?

Pirie shouldn't be concerned so long as nobody insists that he should take up drinking.

All that matters is that Ted Dexter, England's skipper, is satisfied with his men.

After all, the M.C.C. are in Australia to play cricket and not to compete in the marathon of the Empire Games at Perth!

## MCC's Guilty Men—Pirie

**GORDON PIRIE** said in Melbourne to-day that he was not worried about any resentment by members of the M.C.C. team over his comments on their lack of enthusiasm for physical fitness.

"I only spoke for their own good," said the professional athlete who put the cricket tourists through their training paces during the sea voyage to Australia.

"At least five or six members of the England team really need a shake-up to make them realise their responsibility to their country.—B.U.P."

# TRUEMAN

From IAN WOOLDRIDGE

Aboard S.S. Canberra in Indian Ocean, Tuesday.

**FITNESS** fanatic Gordon Pirie is in the process of producing the toughest M.C.C. team ever to invade Australia.

But you would hardly suspect it if you saw the majority of the players sagging in arm-chairs, limping to meals and cursing the fate that landed Pirie on the same ship.

What began with a casual invitation by captain Ted Dexter has now developed into an agonising twice-daily training schedule previously unknown to cricketers.

This morning they had to run six times round the ship—two miles—in a temperature of 85 deg.

## Tug strike

Cold-eyed Pirie had no mercy even on Freddie Trueman, who started last and fell farther and farther behind.

Some players, I suspect, would be near high-sea mutiny if Dexter were less of a disciplinarian.

But Dexter leads them enthusiastically and cheerfully endures Pirie's promise: "You will feel even worse in the next three days, but then you will begin to understand what real fitness means."

Players are relieved that the game in Colombo tomorrow means a Pirie-less day—unless the tug-men's lightning strike, which started there today, means the fixture has to be cancelled.

Gordon Pirie today gave the team the works in a first no-holds-barred physical jerks half-hour.

## Irrepressible

Freddie Trueman, irrepressible as ever, particularly came under the sergeant-major's eye when enthusiasm gave signs of wilting.

But Freddie got his own back during a knees bend session.

To his neighbour, the Reverend David Sheppard, he quipped:

"You do this for Gordon now and I will do it for thee on Sunday!"

WE NOW CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THIS STATEMENT FROM GORDON PIRIE

Led by his dedicated captain I have every confidence in the lean, iron-hard Cowdrey



"Pirie has kindly volunteered to get him fit again."



"I just can't wait to get Pirie at the nets"



"If I wasn't in such awful shape I'd punch him on the nose"



You're excused P.T. for a week—Pillar's doing extra press-ups.



Get moving! Freddie Trueman





# PIRIE DOES IT AGAIN!

GORDON PIRIE has put his foot in it again.

After criticising athletes who, he alleged, had accepted cash payments, and then lashing out at the England cricketers, he is now in

trouble for offering cash himself.

Linda Knowles, 16-year-old schoolgirl high-jumper, has reported Pirie to England's women's team manager, Maria Hartman, for making her a financial

inducement to appear on television.

Pirie is in Australia as a television commentator on the Commonwealth games.

Miss Knowles, of Hornchurch, Essex, realised that her amateur status would be lost if she accepted cash or even a present, and told her team manager.

From J. L. MANNING, Perth, Sunday

**ONE more cash - paid indiscretion by Gordon Pirie and he will be chucked out as an Empire Games commercial TV commentator as fast as he was cast aside by England's cricket team.**

There is no intention of letting him upset the happiest, best presented and most thoroughly organised festival of sport I have ever attended.

After 10,000 volunteers raced torrential rain here today to spring-clean the streets of Perth, Pirie remained the only bushfly to be swatted. And he was.

## 'You're a heel'

Miss Marea Hartman, manager of England's women athletics team, told me she had asked for Pirie to be banned as a correspondent if he makes another approach to an athlete to appear on Games TV programmes.

She decided this after hearing Pirie's explanation of a report by 16-year-old Linda Knowles—Hornchurch, Essex, European bronze medal high jumper—that he had asked her to appear on TV allegedly for "pocket money."

This is against the strictly-enforced regulations to protect amateur status.

Miss Hartman said: "When Pirie tried to say it was only a joke I told him that Linda was only 16 and to have that sort of joke made him a heel."

"We had a good row and I at once told my team they were not to talk to him, reported it to England's headquarters, warned other team managers and asked for his Press pass to be withdrawn if he approaches any other athletes for TV interviews."

There were witnesses of Pirie's "joke," but Brian Treasure, programme director of the TV station employing him for the Games, said:

"I shall look into this. If Pirie made this approach it was unauthorised and in no circumstances do we allow athletes to be paid or to be asked without permission of their team manager."

## 3 MILES

Gordon Pirie summed up the first 2 miles of this event, which was to have been the greatest 12-lap race of all time, as the dullest exhibition of top class running he had ever seen. As Gordon has done a little running himself, I can only second his opinion. I realise that it was hot, yet a first mile of 4.35 and a second of 4.43 was very slow indeed.

For the record, the early "pace" was set by Pat Clohessy, who alternated in the lead with Alby Thomas, K. Keino and Eddie Strong. The latter was in charge until the middle of the 10th lap, when Bruce Kidd shot ahead in a bid to break up the field. However, with title holder Murray Halberg close on his heels and the rest, like a pack of wolves, hot in pursuit, he failed to achieve his object. Had Kidd maintained that burst for another 30-40y he might have made it.

So the field continued its merry way past the bell in 12.40. With about 330 to go, Halberg took off. He sprinted right away from the field and there was nothing that anyone could do about it. The only ones who kept really going were Kidd, Bruce Tulloh and Ron Clarke, who had run a "quiet" race until the last 300y.

Tulloh, running on his own pair of tough soles, had trailed the field for most of the journey and now tried to exploit his finishing power. For a while silver glittered in front of him, but in the last 40y he was passed by Clarke on the outside and Kidd on the inside. Seeing that Clarke had established a 3-4y lead, Kidd gave in content with 3rd.

Halberg's last lap was estimated at a shade inside 53.8, the last mile in about 4.15. After the race he waved to the crowd, then ran to the fence to kiss his wife and 2-year-old daughter Greta.

1. Murray Halberg (NZ) ..... 13:34.2
2. Ron Clarke (Aus) ..... 13:36.0
3. Bruce Kidd (Can) ..... 13:36.4
4. Bruce Tulloh (Eng) ..... 13:37.8
5. Albert Thomas (Aus) ..... 13:40.6
6. Eddie Strong (Eng) ..... 13:41.4
7. P. Clohessy (Aus) 13:42.0; 8. D. Ibbotson (Eng) 13:44.0; 9. J. Anderson (Eng) 13:44.0; 10. A. Anentia (Ken) 13:47.0; 11. K. Keino (Ken) 13:50.0; 12. A. Cook (Aus) 14:17.0; 13. A. Ngatia (Ken) 14:33.0; 14. A. Fyfe (Gib) 15:47.0.

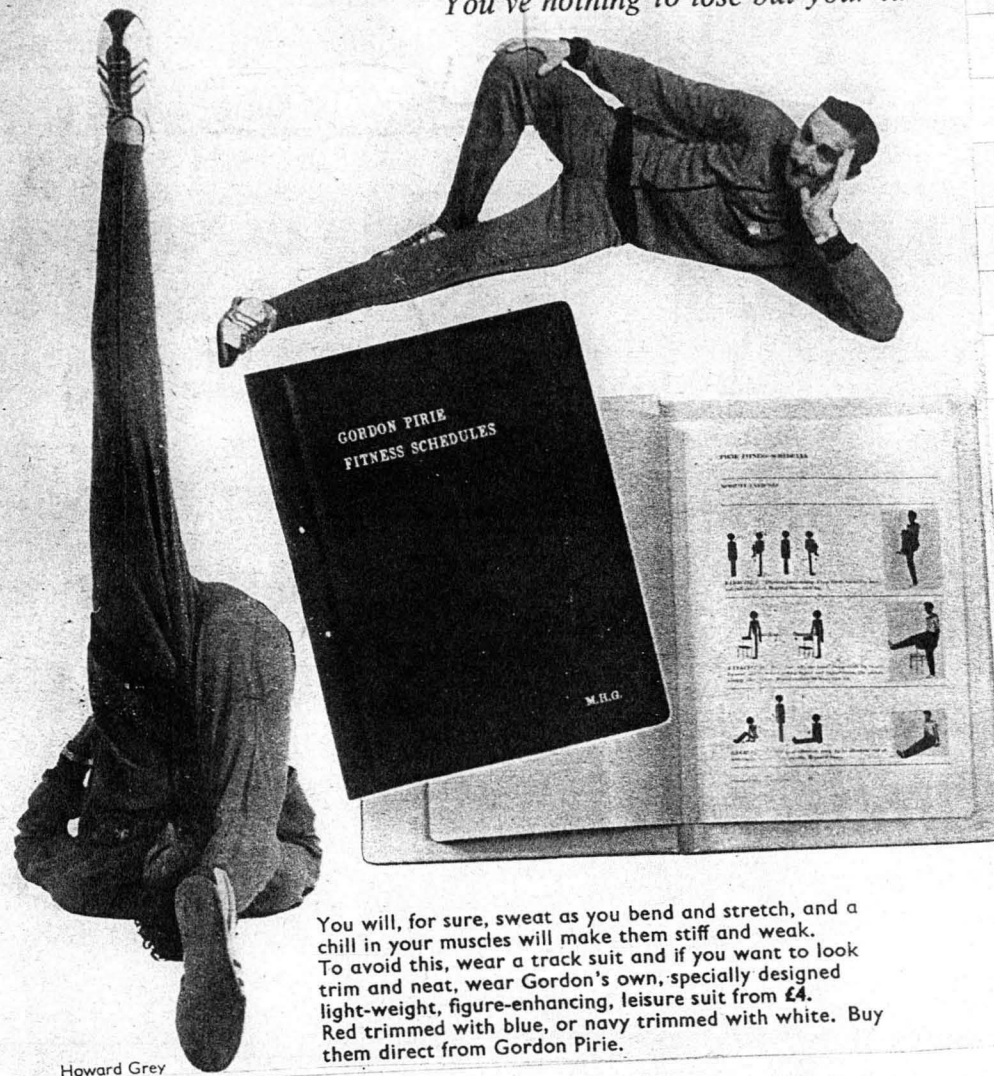
## PIRIE IN AUSTRALIA

PROFESSIONAL running authorities in Australia are hoping to induce Gordon Pirie, who is living in a Melbourne suburb, to race as a "pro" this season. Gordon wants a solid guarantee—£A1,000, I understand.

Professional running is a pretty "dead" affair nowadays, and confined mostly to Victoria. It lacks "name" runners; and anyway, people just are not interested in it.

This season there has popped up a good miler (if times are to be believed) in Harry Downes, from Portland, Victoria. Harry, in his home town on December 29th, won a mile handicap from the scratch mark in 4:04.0, setting a "world pro record". The old mark was 4:06.2 by Peter Sheales in 1961.

A clash between Pirie and Downes might attract a few thousand, if staged in one of the



Howard Grey



HOW are you looking—and feeling? Eyes puffy; your breathing a bit puffy too? Vision wobbly? Have you an uninterrupted view of your feet? If you've said Yes more than No, you need to be taken in hand. And who better to do the taking than top athlete Gordon Pirie? Gordon, who's been in the fitness business all his life, is now making a business of fitness and has worked out a series of schedules which he claims can be followed by the young, middle-aged or old with equal ease for equal benefit.

Toe-touching, according to Gordon, is out. In comes controlled breathing, mobility and isometric (that fools you) exercises and, if you want to be in absolute tip-top athletic form, endurance exercises too.

You, sir (or madam) are probably suffering from lazy lungs. With four-fifths of your breathing apparatus lying idle, collecting dust and dirt, can you wonder your blood stream isn't sufficiently oxygenated and you feel flat and sluggish? A few weeks of Pirie's schedules and your blood stream will be flowing bright and clear, and your figure begin to revert to its normal shape.

For good muscle tone Gordon has devised exercises in which the body provides its own resistance, and which you can do sitting at your desk, in a car, or even lying in bed.

Try this one next time you want to ease the strain after a couple of solid hours desk-crouching:

Still sitting, clasp your hands behind your head. Force your head back and pull your arms forward to the count of six. Ah, happy relief. And it's on this sort of simple, common-sense stuff that Pirie's schedules are based. All you need is 2 gns., and the strength of will to carry them out when you've bought them. For encouragement, Gordon has devised simple control tests with progress charts to show how you're shaping. When you've achieved your self-chosen fitness goal, you need only do the minimum exercise to keep you up to standard.

To get your own personally initialled leather-bound Fitness Schedules, write to Gordon Pirie (Fitness) Ltd., Purley, Surrey. Twelve weeks of regular exercise and you'll have a figure to be proud of... Pirie is now working on *Fitness for the Road* schedules to bring motorists into tip-top form to drive. When these are ready they will be sent free to all subscribers. That's why the schedules are in a loose-leaf binder. ●





# Gordon Pirie School of Athletics

## CLUBS · SCHOOLS · COLLEGES · UNIVERSITIES

Appointments are now being arranged for personal visits to be made during 1964. Applications for lectures, demonstrations, periodical attendances should be received as soon as possible. Fees upon application.

## PRIVATE

Individual Training Schedules arranged and supervised over any period. Kindly apply with fullest details of your requirements for Gordon Pirie's personal attention. Entrance Fee £2 2s. 0d. and 10s. 6d. per month for duration of personal supervision.

For Ladies and Gentlemen not actively engaged in Athletics we have prepared the nationally advertised executive Fitness Schedules. Please send for Brochure.

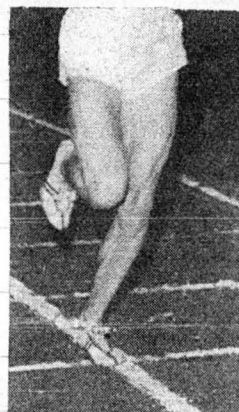
## SPORTSWEAR

The new Gordon Pirie Track and Leisure Suits, also Gordon Pirie Track Shoes are featured in a brilliantly designed range of sportswear. Available in the Spring.

**RUNNING WILD.** Gordon Pirie's autobiography (21/-) on sale for Christmas at 10/6. To celebrate the commencement of a school an autographed free copy is being given to all who make application to join the school before 20th December.

Enquiries and applications:—

The Secretary, GORDON PIRIE (Fitness) Ltd., Purley, Surrey



The lightest and greatest track Shoe in the world



GORDON PIRIE SPRINTA

\*Other shoes in the Gordon Pirie range include the Strida Track Shoe, Cross Country and Supa Traina. Write for Leaflet to:—

A completely new method of manufacture produces the Sprinta at less than 50s. Designed by Gordon Pirie, with remarkable blending of strength with flexibility. An all British made shoe with the super slim steel spikes. RETAIL 97/6 PAIR

## INTRODUCE THE OLYMPIC



Saxonclad know-how plus personal styling by Gordon Pirie have combined to produce this advanced conception in design.

The Olympic tailored 'slim-line' suit can be used equally well for teaching or gymnastics.

IN Helanca **BRI-NYLON**

OTHER STYLES ARE AVAILABLE IN BRI-NYLON FROM ONLY 5 GNS.

SEND FOR NEW 1965 ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE (PRICES ARE DOWN)

All garments in the Saxonclad range are also available in women's sizes

Helanca **BRI-NYLON**

Saxonclad Limited

# Only Tullloh can test Wiggs, claims Pirie



Wiggs and Pirie after the brisk three miles at White City.

## SPORT WITH—A SWING

Edited by HARRY LANGTON

THE swarthy gentleman with sunglasses, grey woolly, and cane-handled umbrella was on stage at the White City Stadium, London.

"I'm not his coach. No, call me ... call me his adviser." GORDON PIRIE leaned on the word delicately, while examining at close range the features of his runner MIKE WIGGS who had just cantered three miles perilously close to a world record.

Until Pirie, helped by a discreet push or two, had arranged himself at the centre of discussion, Wiggs had been explaining his remarkable 13min. 16.6sec. trot with some modesty. Once Gordon was at the heart of the matter the conversation blossomed.

Doubts were expressed about Wiggs' running programme. "Ah!" said Gordon with an imperious wave of the hand at the other three-mile runners in the Southern championship. "Look at them! A lot of hacks! Running around all winter—and where has it got them?"

## The insults

Wiggs of the cat eyes and Herb Elliott physique, grinned.

"There is no one to touch him over a mile in this country, and only Bruce Tulloh can give him a race over three miles," said Gordon, warming up.

"He does the work, I give advice. Sometimes I insult him. That's why he's a bit distant now and then. But it works. Look at Herb Elliott. Without his coach Percy Cerutti he was useless. Useless!"

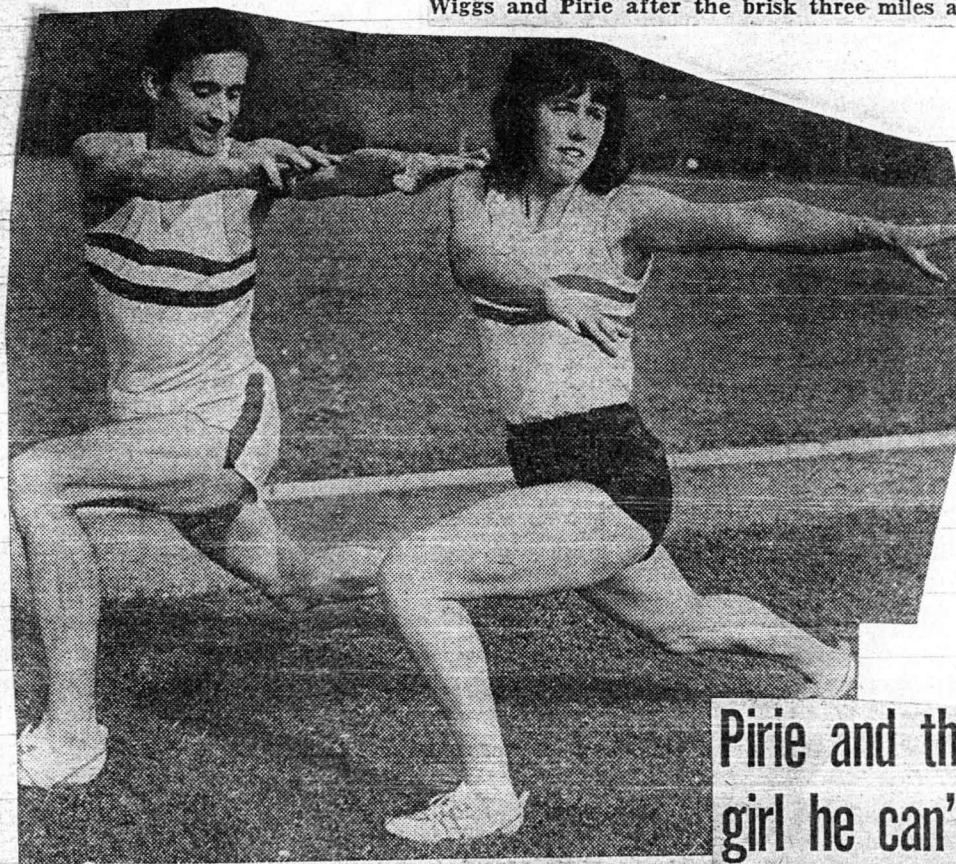
"Do you know," said Pirie, "there was an official out there today who stopped me shouting Mike's lap times. Nonsense!"

"I have run at the White City and always had the lap times called. The Russians do it. But this is Britain with its traditions to uphold." With a smile like a sabre-toothed crocodile he gestured in the general direction of officialdom.

## His ambition

Wiggs, whose time was only a split second outside Pirie's best performance, got in a word or two. He wants to run both the 5,000 metres and the 1,500 metres in the Tokyo Olympics. "He can beat Halberg and run a 3min. 56sec. mile," inserted Pirie.

Wiggs the pupil looked at Pirie the master he now seems destined to outshine. "In top athletics nobody has a mind of his own," said 26-year-old Mike. "Everybody needs someone to kick them." It could be that Pirie will kick Wiggs to something the master could never achieve himself ... an Olympic gold medal.



Training for Tokio—medal hope Anne Smith with her coach.

## Pirie and the girl he can't train in Tokio

STILL training together—Gordon Pirie and Anne Smith, the Olympic medal hope he won't be allowed to coach in Tokio.

Auburn-haired Anne, 22-year-old London schoolteacher and Britain's best ever at the 800 metres, says she owes her success to Pirie—but the Women's AAA have banned him from advising her during the Olympics. Till then, however, Pirie stays in charge.





**BOARD SECRETARY CRUMP:**  
Requires fitness proof from Tulloh

# Pirie blasts Tokyo team chiefs

By TERRY O'CONNOR

**GORDON PIRIE** last night made one of his characteristic outbursts, blasting Britain's athletic selectors over their Olympic team choice.

Pirie hit out on behalf of the athletes who face further weeks of agony wondering what they must do to earn a trip to Tokyo.

Bruce Tulloh, Mike Wiggs, David Jones, Peter Radford and John Boulter are among those still to gain places.

Pirie, a controversial athlete who ran in three Olympic Games and won a silver medal in the 5,000 metres in Melbourne in 1956, is now a coach. He said:

"Team manager Pat Sage has repeatedly condemned timid running and called for more aggression and domination. Yet it is the back runners who have been favoured by the selectors.

"In future I will tell athletes not to worry whether they take five minutes for a mile, providing they win."

It is natural Pirie should be bitter by the non-selection of his protégé Mike Wiggs, whose front running has helped so many athletes achieve fast times this season.

He is also staggered by the nomination of Ulsterman Derek Graham for the 5,000 metres. Pirie is right. There is no logic to the preference of Graham over Wiggs.

Admittedly Graham has two good times this season but both were run behind Southern Irishman Tom O'Riordan.



**BITTER CRITIC PIRIE:**  
Demands sign of logic from selectors



**LOOK WHO'S** cheering Ron Clarke to a new world record? Yes, it is Britain's Gordon Pirie.

## Now Clarke shatters 10,000 record

**HELSINKI, Wednesday.**—Australian Ron Clarke continued his racing conquest of the world tonight when he sliced 1.6 seconds off the world record for the 10,000 metres. Clarke's time: 28min. 14sec.

In the past 12 days Clarke has lowered the world mark for the three miles twice, the 5,000 metres, and now the 10,000 metres.

Clarke, running in ideal conditions at Turku near here, lowered his own record by 1.6sec. set up in Melbourne in December 1963.

★

Clarke who finished ninth in the 5,000 metres in last year's Tokyo Olympics, also holds the world record over six and 10 miles.

● **AT HOME** Mike Wiggs ran the fastest three miles in Britain this year when he won the Thames Valley Harriers' championship in 13min. 23sec. at Alperton.

Wiggs, who did a four-minute mile on Saturday, said: "I can't wait to annihilate Bruce Tulloh and his record."



## Express readers' choice Mary Rand and Robbie Brightwell

From left, Louis Martin, Neil Coles, John Surtees, Terry Downes, Janet Simpson, Gordon Pirie, Beryl Burton, Freddie Mary Rand, Ken Matthews, Robbie Brightwell



Ron Clarke leads a lapped runner during the world-record

10,000m of 28min 14sec in Turku. Man shouting lap-time is Gordon Pirie



# Gordon Pirie coaches winners with Complan

## Flight across the Danube — by Pirie

By ROBERT TREVOR

Gordon Pirie, today revealed his escape from Russian tanks across the Danube at Bratislava. Pirie, one of Britain's greatest athletes was on holiday with his wife Shirley and two children when the Red Army invaded.

He arrived home in Surrey at 5 o'clock this morning.

"We decided to move on Wednesday when it all began," he said, "and had to drive alongside columns of Russian armour to reach Bratislava. It took hours."

"When we reached Bratislava the Russians were guarding the bridge over the Danube. We waited for three hours."

"Once we scooted for cover as guns opened up."

"Czech students were marching through the streets with flags and slogans. They clambered onto Russian vehicles—and suddenly a melee developed."

### 'Sped for our lives'

"The tanks guarding the bridge moved to the trouble spot. By this time several tourists had gathered near the bridge."

"With the way to Austria suddenly opened temporarily, we hurriedly formed a convoy and sped for our lives before the tank returned."

"I had spent a lot of time with Emil Zatopek during our stay. On Saturday he was playing with the kids. We were swimming."

"There was freedom in the air and people were laughing in the sun."

### 'Like Hitler's hordes'

But Zatopek told me the Russians would not allow this to continue. Prophetic words. He was right.

"Now the world should ban the Russians and their henchmen from the Olympics. What they have done is brutal."

"They threatened to boycott the Olympics over South Africa—yet they are now in a worse position. The free world should ban them."

"They are like Hitler's hordes. It's the Czechs today, and if they get away with this they'll be everywhere tomorrow."

"I was in Melbourne when they sacked Budapest. And if I had been aware of what they



Before the rumpus—Anne Smith and her coach, Gordon Pirie, who holds his daughter, out sightseeing and checking a point with a policeman in Budapest.

SOME athletes here expect Anne Smith, the "vanished" British runner, to return in time to compete in the 880 metres heats of the European championships on Friday. She would be wasting her time...

Marea Hartman, manager of the British women's team, told me tonight: "Even if she turned up now, she couldn't run. I have withdrawn her name from the championships and, as far as I am concerned, she is out."

Miss Smith walked out of the athletes' village after her coach,

### From PETER WILSON Budapest, Monday

Gordon Pirie, had been involved in an argument with officials there. She sent a telegram to Miss Hartman yesterday from Graz, in Austria, saying she was on her way home with Pirie and his wife.

Unbeaten over 800 metres or 880 yards in Europe for two years, Miss Smith has the fastest time—2m. 3.2s.—of the thirty-three girls entered for the 800 metres here.

One of her chief rivals, Hungary's Zsuzsa Nagy, said today: "It is too early to exult over her departure. I think she'll be back in time for the race."

Marea Hartman is bitter about Miss Smith's astonishing walk-out. "It's not Anne I am so concerned about," she said. "But her with-

drawal means that another girl has missed the opportunity of representing Britain here."

"I doubt whether she will be picked to run for her country again."

Miss Hartman told me that she understood Gordon Pirie, for a long time the stormy petrel in British athletics, had wished to stay at the athletes' village with his wife and children. They were allowed to stay one night, but Pirie was then told he would have to find other accommodation.

### Ugly Scene

Pirie has coached Miss Smith for three years; she has equalled world records and broken British and European records this year.

But she failed at the Commonwealth Games in Jamaica where she was also involved in a rather ugly scene with a Jamaican official when going to the aid of one of her teammates who had collapsed at the end of a race.

European athletes' village of Goedoeloe, abruptly deserted by British runner Anne Smith, is still empty today.

The money wallet, writing case, and other possessions she left behind in her mystery disappearance have been stored away.

According to B.U.P., even if she returns to Budapest at once she will be sent straight home and not allowed to take part in the Games.

Marea Hartmann, manager of Britain's women's team said tonight:—

"Frankly I doubt whether she will be picked again. Anne's business is her own affair, but her action has cost someone else a place in the team."

British athletes were still talking about Anne's disappearance as they trained in the sunshine today.

They know she motored here two days in advance of the rest of the British team so as to train hard in an attempt to amend her failure in Jamaica.

### TELEGRAM

She travelled with her coach Gordon Pirie, his wife, and two sons. The Pirie family were at first refused admittance to the team headquarters, but there was a change of heart because the two Pirie boys became ill.

Next day Anne and the Pories left. Then Miss Hartmann got a telegram from Graz, Austria.

The telegram apologised for the runaway and promised a letter of explanation. It has not yet been received.

It is known that Gordon Pirie was given a transit visa which allowed him to stay only 24 hours in Hungary.

And there is a theory that 25-year-old Anne Smith—the fastest 800 metres woman in Europe this year—could not strike form when she ran in private before the rest of the team arrived.

## PIRIE DENIES HE PACED ANNE SMITH

Daily Telegraph Reporter

Gordon Pirie, the athlete, denied yesterday that he had given undue help to Anne Smith, 25, of Mitcham A.C. who was disqualified after running fourth in the Southern women's cross-country championship at Enfield on Saturday. The rules of athletics forbid pacing by non-competitors.

Pirie said there was prejudice against Miss Smith, whom he coaches. "There is no right of appeal and nothing we can do, because there is no democracy in athletics."

Miss Smith, European half-mile record holder, said the disqualification was "ridiculous." She had seen Mr. Pirie only once during the race, when he was standing 20 yards from her.

Mr. Frank Swallow, the referee said: "Stewards all round the course complained about Mr. Pirie's pacing." Miss Mabel Cotton, championship secretary, said

## ROCK 'N' ROLL MEETING PROMOTERS OFFER PIRIE A £357 RACE

by Ross McWhirter

GORDON PIRIE is to be offered a thousand dollar race against Swedish 1,500 metres champion Dan Waern.

The £357-for-victory offer comes from a firm of Stockholm professional sports promoters who want to include this one-mile two-man race in an evening of assorted entertainment—other features will be boxing and a rock 'n' roll demonstration—in Stockholm's Olympic Stadium later

Federation, will shatter Herb Elliott's world mile mark of 3min. 54.5sec.

Pirie, who was excluded from the British teams that lost to West Germany and Poland, told me to-day "I have not yet heard anything about this."

He went on, "I am returning to Sweden on Monday and hope, if permission is granted, to run at Malmo on Tuesday and at Gothenburg on Wed-

nesday, the Russians on September 19.

Pirie, who says that this London meeting would be his farewell, is well aware that to run against Waern for prize money would mean the immediate end of his long amateur career.

Waern is faced with a tax bill for double the amount of his arrears. Swedish authorities are claiming £16,100 for the years 1959 and 1960. Waern has said that unless this is paid





## HARES ALWAYS LOSE IN ORIENTEERING

Express Staff Reporter

**G**ORDON PIRIE, 37, ex-holder of five world records, Olympic silver medallist, and now a professional athlete who is barred from competing in British athletics, dons a British tracksuit again today.

He is leading the first British team to compete in the world orienteering championships which take place in a Scandinavian forest 100 miles south-east of Stockholm this weekend.

These championships create as much interest in Sweden as the Cup Final in Britain. Up to now the sport of orienteering is hardly known in Britain, but it will not be long before we are staging the world championships ourselves.

### Great skill

"Orienteering is Britain's newest and fastest-growing sport," says Chris Brasher who, together with many of Britain's leading ex-athletes like Pirie, Bruce Tulloh, Martin Hyman, and John Disley, is a passionate devotee.

"It's like a car rally without a car. We charge around the woods of Britain looking for red and white flags.

"It sounds mad but it is a sport of great skill like trying to solve a crossword puzzle while running around Hyde Park.

"It all depends on navigation and when you find a control first time you get the satisfaction that Sir Francis Chichester must have felt when he sighted Cape Horn looming out of the mist.

"It's a sport for everyone from eight to 80 years old, a sport in which the intelligent tortoise will always beat the hare."

In Scandinavia, where orienteering is more popular than either athletics or cross-country, they are very surprised at the speed with which Pirie has picked up the finer points of the sport.

"We reckon you have to start to train a future world champion when he is eight or nine," says Aage Hadler, 24-year-old Norwegian who is the reigning world champion. "But Gordon, who only started three years ago, is a real threat.

### Booming

He is not expected to beat Hadler, but he will beat the Eastern European athletes from Hungary, East Germany, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia.

There are no Russians entered as yet because they don't like competing in world championships until they are good enough to get into the top six.

The sport is booming east of the Iron Curtain, but they suffer from the fact that all large-scale maps in their countries are classified as military secrets.

The four British girls in the team, which has been sponsored by Glaxo Laboratories, are as enterprising a bunch as you will find anywhere in the world:—



GORDON PIRIE

... challenging the best

## GORDON PIRIE WINS 'KING OF FOREST' RACE

Gordon Pirie, the athlete, yesterday won the individual senior men's event in the British Orienteering Federation's second national senior and intermediate championships held near Hednesford, Staffs.

He won "The King of the Forest" trophy with a time of 1hr 50min 7sec, nearly seven minutes ahead of his nearest rival over the 12km course across Cannock Chase. Results:

SENIOR MEN: 1. G. Pirie (Nuffielders); 2. A. Walker (Nuffielders) 1hr 57min 3sec; 3. M. Wells-Cole (Royal Marines) 1hr 58min 40sec.

SENIOR WOMEN: 1. Mrs. H. Hill (Southern Navigators) 1hr 27min 53sec; 2. Miss C. McNeill (Devizes) 1hr 28min 53sec; 3. Mrs. D. Price (Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club) 1hr 33min 34sec.

INTERMEDIATE MEN: 1. B. M. Bullen (Godalming G.S.) 1hr 8min 9sec; 2. J. Neeves (Glasgow University Orienteering Club) 1hr 9min 29sec; 3. A. P. Barnes (Godalming G.S.) 1hr 16min 50sec.

INTERMEDIATE WOMEN: 1. Miss J. Howell (Devizes) 1hr 36min 33sec; 2. Miss K. Lovick (Octavian Droobers) 1hr 38min 11sec; 3. Miss S. A. Jones (Teignmouth G.S.) 1hr 43min 2sec.

VETERANS: T. Dooris (Southern Navigators) 1hr 58min 37sec; 2. M. Collett (South Ribbles O.C.) 1hr 59min 36sec; 3. E. Ostle (Halesowen O.C.) 2hr 26min 7sec.

## BRITAIN'S NEWEST SPORT

It's called orienteering, and everybody can take part—from Gordon Pirie, racing around the five-mile course at full speed, to a family on a Saturday hike

**ORIENTEERING** entails racing round a number of concealed check points in wooded country, finding the way by accurate use of map and compass. Gordon Pirie, Britain's most successful orienteer (left), runs flat out, keeping check on his course with compass in his right hand and map in his left, counting every pace as he goes

## Grim Pirie masters the wilderness

By TERRY O'CONNOR

**GORDON PIRIE** is a champion again. He won the inaugural British orienteering championship at Hamsterley Forest, Durham, yesterday. Pirie, now 36, finished in 1hr. 51min. 50sec. He has lost none of the grim determination which marked his performances on the world's athletic tracks up to six years ago.

Behind Pirie were such famous Olympians as Chris Brasher, John Disley and international distance runner Martin Hyman. Norwegian Knut Kjemhus was second.

Speed is only a contributory factor in orienteering as accurate map and compass reading can save the time and legs of the non-athletic.

John Rix, one of Pirie's prodigies, who ran a mile in 4min. 2.8sec. on Saturday, finished over an hour behind his tutor.

Yesterday's course in some 5,000 acres of woodland was over an exceptionally difficult terrain which added to the problems of the competitors who had to find 12 checkpoints over the 6½-mile route.

### Flourishing

A fully stamped card is essential and some of the points, marked by a red and white flag, were found in a dry gully, a summit on a spur, and a quarry.

The sport was pioneered by the Swedes almost 40 years ago but it is only in the past few years that it has begun to flourish here.

Nearly 300 took part in the men's, women's, senior and intermediate events yesterday, while some 5,000 participate every weekend. Within a year this number should have doubled.

SENIOR.—Men: 1. G. Pirie, 1hr. 51min. 50sec.; 2. K. Kjemhus, 1-54-59; 3. C. James, 2-1-50. Women: 1. C. McNeill, 1-29-30. INTERMEDIATE.—Men: 1. L. Smith, 1-35-46. Women: 1. J. McMartin, 1-15-21. Teams.—Men: Southern Navigators.



The British team that competed in the recent World Orienteering Championships in Sweden. From left: Gordon Pirie (28th), Geoffrey Peck (19th), Hazel Hill, Anthony Walker (52nd), Pat Murphy, Peter Simpson, Carol McNeill, Michael Wells-Cole (35th), Sue Bone, Jonathan Thomson (51st), and Rod Tuck (manager).



Gordon Pirie, today Britain's most successful orienteer, told me: "I was in Sweden this summer and ran 22 races in 20 days. The top Scandinavians hardly ever make a mistake in their map reading; it's second nature to them. They don't run that fast, but they are very consistent, while I tend to rocket around and make a lot of mistakes."

Even so, he and the other members of the British team are catching up. This summer in the Euro-meeting he came seventh and the British team did better than any other non-Scandinavian country, coming fifth in the overall placing.



**ENDLESS POST MORTEM**s take place after a race—Chris Brasher, Chairman of the British Orienteering Federation (on the right), Martin Hyman (middle) and Gordon Pirie compare the routes they chose and the mistakes they made.



**FRANK TAYLOR AT LARGE**

## Flash? Not this Gordon

VLADIMIR KUTS, the double gold medallist in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, is dead.

Derek Ibbotson, the former world mile record holder, is now a portly middle-aged businessman.

But, unbelievably, Gordon "Puff-puff" Pirie, the third man of that talented trio who dominated middle-distance running 25 years ago, is still a competitive athlete, although in his 48th year.

### Leader

He has turned up in Tampere—a town known as the Manchester of Finland—to lead the New Zealand team in the world orienteering championships and, as usual, Gordon has done it the hard way.

Some of our young athletes, who are always looking for the golden handshake and the Rolls-Royce treatment, might learn from Pirie's spartan attitude.

For the last three months he has been working in Norway as a lumberjack, to help pay for his trip.

"I competed in the first world orienteering championships in Finland thirteen years ago," said Gordon.

"I had to compete again this time. I enjoyed this country so much when I was an Olympic athlete."

Gordon wanted to be the first to arrive for the championships, which will comprise more than 200 competitors from 21 countries. And he was.

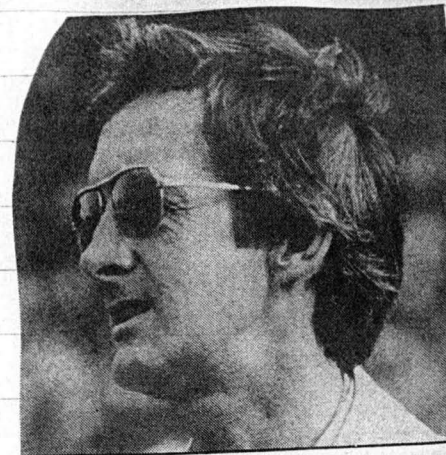
### Cycled

He travelled from Norway to Sweden, crossed by boat to Turku, a town on the west coast of Finland where he had many great runs, and then actually cycled the 100 miles from Turku to Tampere, where the championships open tomorrow.

Pirie's cycling time from Turku? Just five hours.

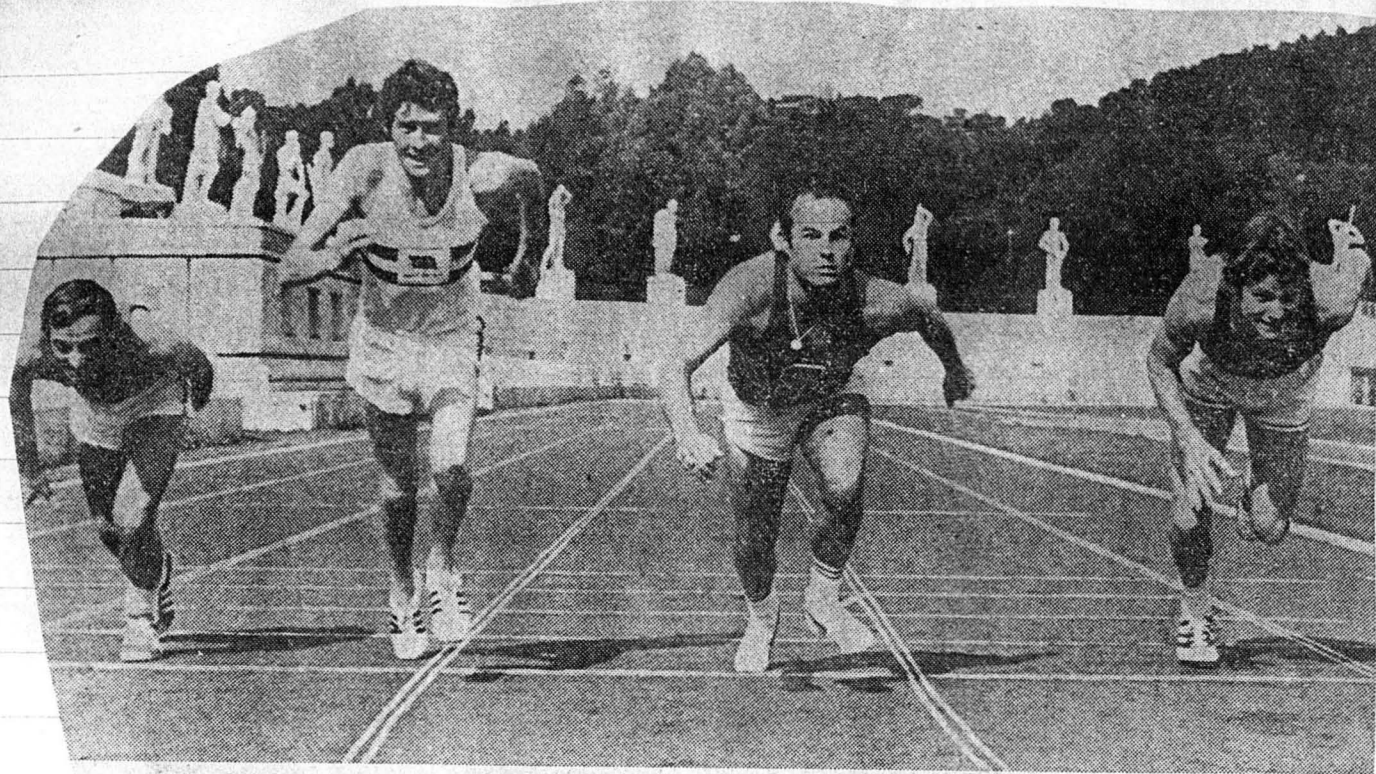
No first-class hotel room either for Gordon Pirie. He has been living in a tent.

Pirie won't win, but the Iron Man who thrilled us 25 years ago on the track, is still very much a competitor.



Multi-world record breaker, Gordon Pirie. Silver medallist 1956 Olympic 5000 metres.





Flying start, from left, Charles Aznavour, Michael Crawford, Richard Zanuck, Ryan O'Neal

Express Staff Reporter

**H**OLLYWOOD tycoons are not what they used to be—moving around in clouds of Havana cigar smoke and carrying a sizeable paunch.

Now in storms Mr. Richard Zanuck, at 33 the lean Brando-esque production head of Twentieth Century-Fox.

He arrived in Rome to check progress on his Olympics epic, "The Games." And at first light next morning took his stars—Michael Crawford, Ryan O'Neal, and Charles Aznavour—out to the track for a work-out.

With them too went the film's technical adviser, Gordon Pirie.

For Zanuck, the morning run was routine. Back home he does a five-mile daily jog round the studio lot, accompanied by such executives as can't think of a decent excuse.



and Gordon Pirie

## Pirie speaks with spiked tongue

**GORDON PIRIE**, Britain's celebrated middle-distance runner and controversial personality of 1951-61, recently made a brief visit from New Zealand, where he still "lives, eats and breathes athletics."

Now 49, his 6ft 1in frame is as lean as ever ("I am still at my best running weight of 10½ stones") but his spikey crew-cut has been replaced by a generous length of hair. The personality, though, is as spikey and intriguing, as it was 25 years ago.

Fit? I'll say I am. I've run 200,000 miles in the past 40 years, and I still run for an hour most days, four hours sometimes.

A slow smile, with no trace of melancholy, creased his lined face when I explained the difficulty of finding his room at a West London college.

"Gordon who?" asked a student when I inquired for Pirie's whereabouts. "Is he a new teacher or something?"

### Proud memories

In his day, Gordon Pirie was feared on the major running tracks of the world, so what are his proudest memories?

"Setting a world 5,000 metre record and beating Vladimir Kuts in doing so . . .

"Running one of the first four-minute miles and beating Peter Snell . . .

"Running against the greatest of them all, Zatopek, on six occasions — and beating him three times."

The range of Pirie's career, and its longevity, are the features of which he is now most proud. "I was in the British team for 11 years, running everything from 800 metres to a world record for 20 miles.

"I won the national cross country by 1.07 minutes, which was then the biggest-ever margin."

Pirie's recent visit to Britain was to promote the "Veteran Olympics" to be staged next January at Christchurch, New Zealand. "These Veteran Games will be more devil-may-care and enjoyable than the normal ones.

One competitor in the 100 metres will be a New Zealander who lost a leg from below the knee, at Tobruk."

Pirie did not always win in his heyday, and he was not always right in his outspoken comments. But he did win a lot of races, and had a lot to say — some of it probably right. Here are his current thoughts on important topics.

### No Moscow

Should British athletes compete at the Moscow Olympics? "No.

Athletes suffer from tunnel-vision, the same as I did as a young man. They think the world revolves around their running and world records, rather than moral ethics. One day they will realise it doesn't."

How do British athletes of today compare with your era? "Their times are better, and so they should be, because tracks and training facilities are better.

"But facilities aren't everything and youngsters can be spoiled by being spoon-fed. I started out with one pair of RAF canvas shoes and one pair of PT shorts.



Pirie in his heyday . . . beating the Hungarian Szabo by 1-200th of a second after two gruelling miles in May, 1958.

"In my day, Britain had a world superiority at middle distance — Bannister, Chataway, Brasher, Ibbotson and Tulloh. Now British talent is more spread out. We've got a world class shot-putter in Capes; a sprinter in Wells."

What are your thoughts on Lasse Viren, the double gold-medallist at the last two Olympics, and the rumours of blood-doping?

Viren has everybody over a barrel because he's the greatest tactician, and not for any other reason. They're all up to some medico gimmick these days, but I've never seen a UFO and I've never known of any blood doping."

How about amateurism, and the so-called sham-amateurs? "Amateurism never existed, at the top, in my time, and it certainly doesn't now. I can recall one star getting £1,000, under the counter, but I didn't, because I was a mug—I just wanted to run."

"I now know of one runner who got £20,000 for a race last year, and there's another athlete on 25,000 Americans dollars a year as a retainer from a running shoe firm."

Should athletics follow other sports and become Open? "The Eastern Bloc countries would never agree because then the West would have an equal chance. The Eastern athletes already enjoy all the advantages of professionalism — facilities, unlimited time off for training, rewards of one sort or another."

The top group of West athletes are being looked after now, but the majority still carry a handicap."

What are your thoughts on Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett? "Fantastic runners. They are managing to do things their own way, too, despite the problems British officials can put in an athlete's way



Pirie today . . . longer hair but still as determined as ever.

telling you where and when to run, for instance.

"You are in amateur but they treat you like an employee. To get your best results, you have to be a free agent."

If you had your time again, would you make it different? "Yes, I ran too many races. As an animal, man is competitive, but you have to curb it — as Ovett and Coe are sensibly doing — to get your highest results."

Would you be less of a fire-brand? "Not at all. I'm a ball of fire as a character, and you have to have that to win. Now I'm a coach in New Zealand, and I'm firing my runners up. Coaching is 60 per cent. psychological."

Our interview over, Gordon Pirie loped off into the distance on his daily running stint. The passion he still undoubtedly has is producing winners for New Zealand. What a pity he seems to be lost to British athletics!





## Zatopek out for fun

WHEN LONDON last staged the Olympic Games in 1948, it introduced to the world a Czechoslovak runner named Emil Zatopek, who with an apparently agonising running style, but an insatiable appetite for world records and Olympic gold medals, soon became a living legend in athletics.

Next Sunday the great Czech, above, who is now 65, returns to London for the 10th edition of Britain's biggest running event, the Sunday Times National Fun Run in Hyde Park, starting at 10am.

Emil will be guest starter for the men's and women's 60-and-over event at 3pm — in which he himself would have taken part but for illness, which brought his own running to a halt last year.

Among the 245 entrants in this star event are two other veterans of the 1948 Games, Herman Goffberg, an American who ran against Zatopek in the 10,000 metres, and Jack Braughton, who was Britain's 3,000 metres steeplechase man in those days.

Also in the field is the event's oldest entrant, 81-year-old Will Chapman from Borehamwood. The oldest female entrant is 78-year-old Janet Chisholm from Liverpool. For what the Fun Run represents, of course, is a much



**10th  
NATIONAL  
FUN RUN**

wider interest in running — embracing people of all ages and abilities — than in the days when Zatopek was king of the track.

Dramatically illustrating that point, London-based correspondents of the Soviet news agency Tass will report on this year's event as participants.

Their entry owes much to Jill Smithies, a secretary at the agency's London bureau and a veteran of the Fun Run, having for the last four years entered a team representing the high-IQ society, Mensa. She told the newsmen that the Mensa Masochists were just one of many hundreds of teams taking part, most of whom had no claim to be athletes, with each team

member running within his or her own age group.

Accordingly, the correspondents Igor Peskov and Andrei Biryukov were encouraged to add their respective wives and daughters and make up a team with the arresting title of The Russians Are Coming.

Mr Peskov will also be sending home a feature report on the Fun Run. Modesty may forbid him from giving his own placing among the 1,321 starters in the men's 33-35 event, or his colleague's position among the 1,705 entrants in the 30-32 age group.

Mr Peskov says that he is "eager to learn about all aspects of British life", which includes a curiosity about the Briton's traditional enthusiasm for exercise. And he will learn more when, next Friday, he and Mr Biryukov work out with Lizzie Webb, TV-am's exercise expert — the culmination of a week in which the programme is encouraging celebrity Fun Run participants to warm-up.

They will be joined in the event by teams from business, schools, government offices, sports clubs, villages and pubs — 2,735 groups in all from every walk of life.

Norman Harris

## ● HE'S A FEARLESS FANATIC

**D**ROPPED, banned and criticised. Gordon Pirie could hardly be in more trouble. Yet, unrepentant and convinced he's had a raw deal, the turbulent breaker of five world records is training hard for a triumphant farewell appearance in the News of the World-sponsored England v. Russia match at the White City, London, on Sept. 19 and 20.

"It's the least I can do for the British public who have supported me so loyally for so many years," he said. "Besides, it won't do me any harm to finish my career in a blaze of publicity," he added with characteristic frankness.

What a complex, complicated individual this man is.

In 10 years as a world class athlete Gordon has quarrelled, criticised, and spoken his mind. Colleagues, officials, Press and promoters—none has escaped.

Does this then mean that he's thoroughly unpleasant and unpopular?

Not a bit. Why even Jack Crump, despite his recent heated encounter with Gordon, would probably agree: "He's a bit difficult at times but really a good chap at heart."

But liking him, loathing him, or just writing him off as an eccentric, can't alter the fact that Gordon Pirie has done more for British athletics than any other single person.

### INSPIRATION

**H**IS fanatical approach to training completely revolutionised middle and long distance running in this country. His name and performances have inspired youngsters throughout the United Kingdom. And he's brought thousands of pounds through the turnstiles.

But, having said all this, I don't fall for any of the old malarkey about the sacrifices he's made for the sport!

Anything he's given up for athletics has been for purely personal reasons, aimed to further the cause of Douglas Alistair Gordon Pirie.

For the past five years he has been without a regular job. Only of course because he did not want one. With his wife Shirley, a former international sprinter, he has travelled the world.

How has he done it? Mainly by shrewd acceptances of athletics invitations and using his international contacts.

## THIS MAN PIRIE

He has turned his back on first-class business opportunities to become a world-wide traveller and to run more or less just when and where he pleased.

And he has no regrets. But the fact remains that at 30 years of age he has no job, no home, and precious little money in the bank.

### LATE ARRIVAL

**G**ORDON was sacked from the international matches against West Germany and Poland and had his permission to run in Scandinavia withdrawn because of his late arrival in Dortmund from Sweden.

He reported at 1 p.m. on the day of the match instead of the previous night.

That was bad enough, but officials were furious when it was discovered that he'd run in Stockholm the previous night—his third race that week. But let's hope all controversy will



be forgotten when Gordon finally hangs up his spikes this month.

Nothing would be more fitting than for him to go out in a blaze of glory with record breaking efforts against the Russians.

Good luck Gordon!

DOUG WILSON



## SPORT

COMPARED with those of golf, tennis, football and especially cricket, yesterday's heroes of track and field do not get much recognition.

But the Italian organisers of these ultra-modern World Championships, with that endearing national capacity for becoming all heart, just when they have been driving you mad, have brought the past back to us.

More than two score of the greatest athletics champions and record breakers of all time have been in Rome this week, invited to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation and remember the days when they were young and unbeatable.

Where this reporter was fresh-faced, too, cheering on Fanny Blankers-Koen, the flying Dutchwoman, over the hurdles, and "hustling Herb" McKenley round the track at the 1948 Wembley Olympics.

Sitting next to me at a gala evening was the ever boyish Emil Zatopek, winner of the 5000 and 10,000 metres and marathon at the 1952 Olympics.

### Immortal

"So many here from the family of sport," said Emil as he waved at New Zealand's Peter Snell, middle distance record-breaker and applauded immortal Americans like shot putter Pagch O'Brien and sprinter Bob Hayes.

It was Zatopek who will tell you of his most valuable memory of the 1948 London Olympics where he won the 10,000 metres gold.

"After all the killing and starvation of the second World War, I was so moved that the world had come together in peace that I decided I must take part in the opening parade of the nations," he said.

My officials in our team from Czechoslovakia had forbidden me to do this. They wanted me to rest in the village, away from Wembley, because I would be racing the next day.

"But on the big day I hid amongst our team as we marched into the stadium and they did not discover me until we were almost opposite the biggest part of the crowd.

# Zatopek heads the golden oldie parade

NEIL ALLEN reports from Rome

"'Emil, Emil' they called. 'You must not be here. I said to them, very strong. 'Be quiet, The King George is looking at us'."

Mere 'youngsters', like our Olympic winners, Lynn Davies and Mary Peters, have been here, too, marvelling that the company should include Kitei Son, the 1936 Olympic Marathon winner, and Cornelius Warmerdam, pre-war pole vault record-breaker when you sailed up high on mere bamboo rather than scientifically tested fibre glass.

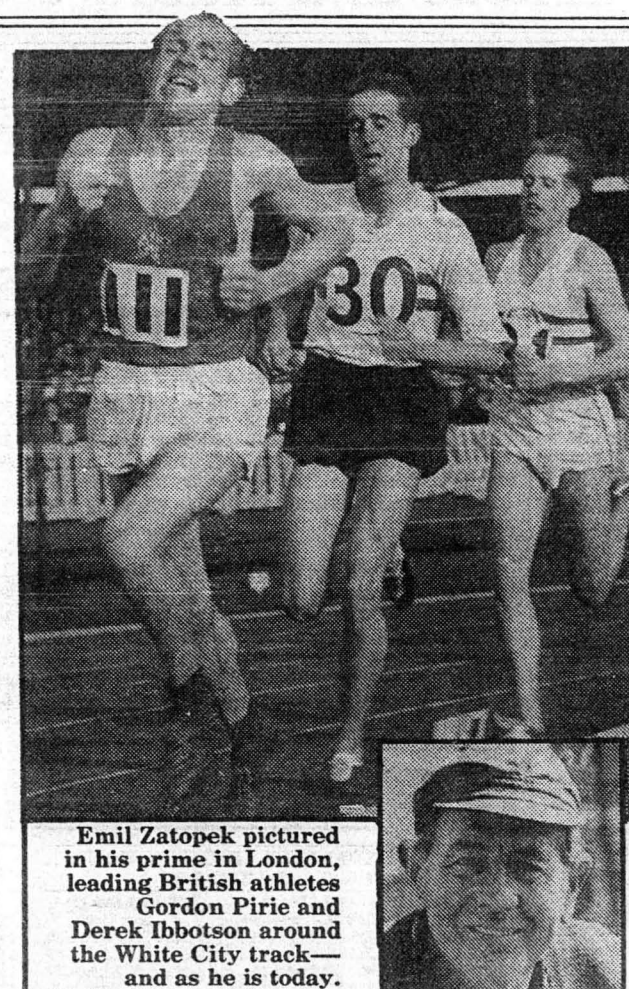
Sitting at the poolside bar of the Rome Hilton, a pre-war 100 yards A.A.A. champion from Hungary named Jozsef Sir talks about the good old days at the White City ("They tell me it is now just a

super-market there") and his own pleasure at the historic get-together.

"Such a joy for me, to share a beer with Dick Fosbury and hear how he personally invented that marvellous "flop" style of high jumping, experimenting at first in water because it was too dangerous in the old landing pits," he said.

### Doubled

Still a sprinted at heart, veteran I.A.A.F. official Sir looks forward, hoping the federation will spend some of its 20 million dollars investment as soon as possible on the less developed nations



Emil Zatopek pictured in his prime in London, leading British athletes Gordon Pirie and Derek Ibbotson around the White City track—and as he is today.



where so much vibrant sports talent needs simple athletic facilities.

Looking forward, too, as he climbs the steep steps towards his seat in the Olympic Stadium stand, is an elderly American gentleman. He tells me he missed competing in the 400 metres in the 1928 Olympics only because he could not afford the train fare to the final U.S. Olympic trials.

"Now you take care," warns his wife. "Don't forget that three years ago, with that heart of yours, the doctors said you would never walk again."

"I'm O.K., honey," responds the athlete of half a century gone. "These legs of mine are still good enough to get me there in time for the starter's gun."



unusual in an athlete. One prominent runner says: "Gordon is one of the few Englishmen who really has wakened up to the fact that international athletics today is not so much a matey Victor Ludorum club as a blood sport."

In one three thousand metres race on the Continent last year, Pirie was ready to take the lead but found himself bunched. "Two or three strides and I could have been away. These boys knew they were blocking me, but did nothing about it. Finally, I just went straight through them. One went flying."

Pirie allows nothing to interfere with his development as a runner. Training one dark night on the Farthing Downs near his home at Coulsdon, Surrey, he tripped over an ant-hill and tore a tendon in his right foot. Next morning, he telephoned a county council official and asked whether the ant-hills could be cleared. "I was asked who I thought I was," says Pirie. That night he collected a spade from his father's garden and dug out every ant-hill on his path.

Until recently, he often rolled and raked a local track to enable him to do his nightly training runs. At least two sports columnists have had to run alongside Pirie to get brief interviews because he would not break his training routine; he usually excuses himself from the junketings that follow international sports meetings preferring to be in bed by nine.

On the coldest night this year he did his usual work-out wearing a singlet, a football jersey, a sweater, a French woollen track-suit top, a waterproof jacket, track-suit trousers, mittens and woollen socks. "I was soon soaking with sweat." Only fog, his worst enemy, has cut his programme—it was so thick one night last winter that he returned home after only a few minutes' jog-trotting.

He has an easy running style with an economical shrugging action fashionable among Continental athletes. He accelerates with a long, loping stride geared to his breathing, taking in air when his left foot touches the ground. As he breathes out he puffs his cheeks like bellows. "It's easy enough to get air into the lungs," he says. "The trouble is that the heart can't pump it into the muscles fast enough." By

normal standards, Pirie's heart is big. It was photographed in repose and again when he had worked a cycling machine to an equivalent of six miles on the track. The results so surprised doctors and trainers at Freiburg University that they said Pirie had the "heart of the century." Its movements are scarcely discernible while he is stationary—and it has plenty of power in reserve.

#### Trains To Toughen His Heart

Pirie's training schedule is aimed chiefly at increasing the power of his heart. His three-hour daily effort usually begins with an hour's warming-up, followed by seven and a half miles of running in which he covers specified distances in equal times. Shorter distances are done twenty-five times or more. "Before the end," says Pirie, "you don't feel like it at all."

Each session usually involves twenty to twenty-five miles running. He then writes a letter to his German coach, Woldemar Gerschler, to report his times, physical and mental reactions—and even the weather.

He is finicky about injuries. "Most athletes ignore slight damages and only report them when it's almost too late," says Mick Mays, Amateur Athletic Association masseur. "Gordon isn't like that. If the slightest thing goes wrong he comes to me looking as if he's got all the world's troubles on his shoulders." On one occasion he called on Mays to examine a foot injury at eleven o'clock at night.

The youngest of three sons of Alick and Martha Pirie, Gordon was born in Leeds, where he had an early glimpse of athletics through his father, a useful distance runner. At three, Gordon tried lapping the track with his father. But he was ten, he claims, before he really became aware of the sport. At Purley Grammar School, Gordon and his classmates had the option one afternoon of doing normal lessons or going on a cross-country run. The run did not greatly appeal, but the boy chose it—and won. Soon he was winning by habit.

He joined the South London Harriers at thirteen, and two years later was the club youth champion. He set up a school high jump record

and in 1947, running for the Air Training Corps, won the national junior mile with a record time of four minutes forty-two seconds—a time that he can do today for every one of six miles.

By 1949, Pirie was in the R.A.F.—determined to keep up his training. An n.c.o. once made him run in heavy service boots. It seemed good for building up endurance—and Pirie included running-in-boots in his training routine. In 1950 he won the southern junior cross-country championship, and in another cross-country event got his first "stitch" since his early schoolboy efforts. New shorts with tight elastic choked his middle—and he came in twentieth.

Pirie was accepted now. He won the Amateur Athletic Association's six-mile with a British record which stood for only a fortnight. In a year he ran eleven one-mile races, winning all but two. Then, last July, he became an international figure by breaking the six-mile world record in a time of 28 minutes 19.4 seconds. (Zatopek later took it from him.)

#### Café Customers Pull His Leg

On the Monday after his record run he went to lunch as usual at the market-traders' café he uses in Croydon. The centre table was set out with an iced cake, and the proprietor cooked Pirie a special fillet steak.

Normally solemn-faced, Pirie reveals a strong sense of humour among the leg-pulling stall-holders, bus drivers and clerks in the café. Recently a diner started complaining loudly about some obstruction under his table. When everyone was listening, he made a show of looking under the table, then observed: "It's Gordon's legs." Pirie was sitting about twenty feet away.

A hearty eater, Pirie often startles acquaintances with his appetite. He never touches food immediately before a race, but at all other times he seems hungry. Often, in the middle of the night, he wakes up hungry. On a recent Sunday morning he awoke at 4.30, went downstairs and had a meal of bread, honey, peanut butter and milk. To those who watch Pirie's interests, his appetite is encouraging. "He needs all the energy food can give him," says Mick Mays. "He knows he has the energy and it gives him confidence."

In fact, Pirie's confidence can be staggering—"he has an over-riding faith in the inevitability of victory," according to one famous A.A.A. official. Immediately after Pirie had been beaten in a three thousand metres run in France last year by Gaston Reiff, a Belgian, team manager Jack Crump pointed out that Reiff had pulled it off by a tremendous middle lap. Pirie is often criticized as a one-pace runner, and on this occasion Crump said that until he could learn to match Reiff's change of speed in the middle of a race the Belgian would always win. Pirie listened solemnly, then said: "I'll beat him next time." At the White City, London, some weeks later, he did.

#### Ran Against Mile Champions

His icy confidence did not desert him when he ran last August in a race billed as "the mile of the century." Among the top milers running were Wes Santee, of America, and Chris Chat-away. Pirie, who had been concentrating on longer distances, was not given much of a chance against such a field. Before the start of the race an elaborate souvenir book tracing the story of the mile event was circulated to the runners for their signatures, opened at a blank double page. Ronald Bacchus, an official, handed the book to Pirie and indicated where he should sign—on the left-hand page. Pirie wrote his name, and was about to sign a second time on the opposite page when Bacchus explained that it was reserved for the winner's name.

"I may as well sign now," said Pirie. Bacchus found it hard to stop him. Later, however, he accepted Pirie's second signature. The man who is always in a hurry had won "the mile of the century" in 4 minutes 6.8 seconds. THE END